FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BRAZILIAN REPORT ON AIRCRAFT, 'EXOCET' MISSILES

PY041756 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jan 85 p 9

[By Roberto Godoy: "Argentine 'Exocet' on Brazilian Plane"]

[Text] The ground attack Brazilian Xavante EMB-326 jet can fire a medium-range supersonic, air-to-surface missile that has been developed and built by Argentina. The missile, known as the Martin Pescador [Kingfish] ASM-2, can hit targets up to a distance of 15 km. This is the first weapon of its kind that has been built with domestic technology by a South American country through a project carried out by the main research agency of its Armed Forces, the Technical and Scientific Research Institute, for use by its Air Force and Navy. The first version of this missile was used in 1982 during the Malvinas war in a bombing operation against a British troop convoy led by the transport Atlantic Conveyor, which was sunk.

The Xavante planes, which are built in Sao Jose dos Campos by Brazilian Aeronautics Enterprise [EMBRAER], were acquired by the Argentine Government after the South Atlantic conflict to replace losses in its air fleet. These are well-built planes that are basically similar to an Italian aircraft that AMBRAER has purchased the license to produce. The Argentine Air Force (FAA) and the Navy Air Command of Argentina now have about 45 units of the 339 series, which is especially designed for operation over open water.

The electronic integration system between the new missile and its target steering system [VETOR] required a year of work by the Armed Forces Scientific and Technical Research Center (CITEFA) at its Villa Martelli installations on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. According to an inside source, "30 trial launchings of various configurations were anticipated, but since the Brazil-made Xavante plane has electronic components and cellular units that are more advanced than expected in such aircraft, the work on the electronic integration was reduced by at least one-third of the originally scheduled time."

The Martin Pescador is a tactical weapon, and the first two versions of it can be launched from planes flying as fast as Mach 0.5. A navigational radio receiver, a target approximation radar (AMS-2), energy sources, control mechanisms, and logic memory are stored in the missile's forward section. The missile's midsection contains the detonator and the explosive charge. Its rear section holds the engine, propellants, the main electronic sensors, four "wings," and the control cannards which can be operated by a peripheral autonomous system. The missile can reach a maximum speed of Mach 2.3 (almost two and half times the speed of sound, that is, nearly 2,300 kilometers per hour). The missile hits the target at a speed of 1,300 kilometers per hour and it takes 13 seconds to cruise the 15 kilometers to its farthest target.

The Martin Pescador is guided by radio signals and has three auxiliary sensors for making correction in its original trajectory. The signals are sent by the pilot of the launching plane once the missile enters the line of fire. Changes in direction and flying modes can be made at any time by means of a push-button set mounted on the control column of the firing plane. More than one missile can be fired at the same time (each Xavante carries four missiles under its wings) with the aid of a microcomputer capable of selecting the independent frequencies for each ASM-2, while navigation is controlled by a digital panel installed in the plane's cabin. The AMS-2 configuration carries a small terminal radar that triggers in the last 4 km of its course to the target 15 kilometers away.

There is nothing comparable to the Martin Pescador in the Third World, at least not on assembly line production. Brazil and India, however, already have in execution technical design plans to build weapons of even greater effectiveness. Only 10 countries (the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, Israel, the FRG, Japan, Italy, Norway, and Sweden) manufacture this type of weapon on a regular basis.

The Martin Pescador is a medium-sized missile; it is 2.94 meters in length, 140 kilograms in weight, and has a wingspan of 0.73 meters. Its warhead of high-power explosives (HE) weighs 40 kilomgrams. Its range goes from a minimum of 2.5 km to a maximum of 9 km for the ASM-1 version, and from a minimum of 2.5 km to a maximum of 15 km for the ASM-2 version. The third member of the "family" will be tested in 1985; it is a helicopter-launched model with a 100-kilogram warhead.

The EMBRAER-built Xavante planes capable of launching this electronic-guided weapon are deployed to bases in Ushuaia, Puerto Belgrano, and Rio Santiago. They are conventional jets that can fly up to 867 kilometers per hour at a ceiling of 14,000 meters. However, their main characteristic is that they can fly at a low altitude, below the radar detection line. For this purpose, they have wingspans of 1015 meters, matching their body lengths, which give them a high degree of lift. This characteristic was inherited from their original function as an advanced training plane for combat pilots. They can carry up to 1,800 kilograms plus two pilots, and they have been used by 12 nations as ground attack planes, firing rockets, bombs, cannons, machine guns, and missiles. A one-seat model of the Xavante has been nicknamed Impala in South Africa. The two-seat model mentioned before can now launch the Martin Pescador, the Argentine Exocet.

Report Denied

PY041809 Buenos Aires NOTICAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (NA) -- Upon being questioned about press reports from Sao Paulo, Brazil, reliable sources said that Argentina has not built, and is not building, a French-type Exocet guided missile, although an experiment was carried out between 1975 and 1980 until French weapons, including Super Etendard airplanes, were purchased. According to the Brazilian press report, Argentina might have built missiles capable of carrying 40 kg of explosives in their warheadd and of being guided by radio up to 4 km before the target when radar takes over until impact. Reliable sources linked to the government weapons factory complex denied the Brazilian press reports and recalled that betweeen 1975 and 1980 Argentina did experiment with a guided missile, but that the research was discontinued when the Navy decided to buy the French Super Etendard Exocet weapons system.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN MARITIME TALKS WITH BRAZIL

PY051900 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] (NA) -- An amicable agreement between the Governments of Argentina and Brazil put an end to an international rift which threatened to disrupt maritime relations between the two countries. The agreement was the result of a telephone coversation between Argentine River and Maritime Transport Under Secretary Pedro Casado and his Brazilian colleague Jonas Correa da Costa Sobrinoh. The controversry followed a decision by the Argentine Government that certain bulk exports should be transported on vessels flying the Argentina flag. Both officials decided on a truce lasting until January 9 when the matter would again be discussed.

VICE PRESIDENT TO ATTEND NICARAGUA INAUGURATION

PY070115 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2017 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jan (TELAM) -- Vice President Victor Martinez will leave tomorrow, 7 January, for Managua, Nicaragua, heading the Argentine delegation that will attend the inauguration of President-elect Daniel Ortega. The aircraft carrying the Argentine delegation will take off at 0800 from the Metropolitan Aeropark Airport. The delegation is made up of Deputy Foreign Minister Elsa Kelly, Presidential Adviser Luis Caeiro, and Central America Area Director Raul Ricardez.

Vice President Martinez will deliver a message from President Raul Alfonsin to President-elect Daniel Ortega, reiterating his support for the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in Central America and the Caribbean. The inauguration of Daniel Ortega is scheduled for Tuesday, 8 January 1985.

COMMUNIST YOUTHS DEPART FOR NICARAGUAN HARVEST

PY050200 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2145 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The spokesmen for a group of 120 Communist youths, who today flew to Nicaragua to help in the coffee harvest, denounced the fact that "the U.S. Embassy exerted pressure on the Argentine Government" to prevent the trip. Jorge Garra, who heads the Libertador General San Martin Brigade, as this delegation is named, told reporters at the Ezeiza International Airport that "we are aware of the fact that our trip is not well regarded, particularly by the United States." In this manner, he justified the reason for which the time of departure and other details were not revealed, adding that "great pressure has been exerted on the Argentine Government and not on us." Garra said that "we have been at the Foreign Relations Ministry organizing with its officials the periodical contacts that we will have to make with our embassy in Managua to report on our general situation."

This brigade will return to Argentina on 1 March, and in Nicaragua it will join a group of 2,000 volunteers from 15 countries, among which 600 Americans are included. The Argentine youths will help with the coffee harvest in zones where the Sandinist Army is fighting rebels.

About 500 Communist supporters were present at the airport to see the Communist brigade off. The group is made up of 100 men and 20 women and their average age is 25 years.

GOVERNMENT TO UNVEIL 5-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN

PY061935 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- The government will unveil its five-year economic programme to business and labour at the socio-economic contract talks tomorrow, although the participation of labour representatives is still uncertain. The programme aims to promote the export of agricultural, primary, and hydrocarbon products based on a high exchange rate within "a framework of political stability."

The document drawn up by the Planning Secretariat warns against the "illusion of a fleeting reactivation that might temporarily satisfy economic needs, but at the expense of aggravating inflation and foreign imbalances and jeopardizing economic growth and general public welfare."

The 1985-1989 government programme calls for reallocating public spending, "better criteria for state investment," and possibly reducing the number of public administration employees by 20 percent. It also emphasizes the need for foreign capital investment, without giving any specific details.

A 4.4-billion dollar trade surplus balance is forecast for 1985, while the public sector deficit is expected to be 5.3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). The government's goal is for investment by the public sector to reach eight percent GDP this year and five percent, or 3.5 billion dollars, by the private sector. The document says that the adoption of a "defense mechanism in the face of existing difficulties is a dead-end street, which encourages the idea that the country is turned in on itself and cut off from current trends of trade and modern technology."

ALFONSIN-CGT 'SECRET MEETING' REPORTED

PY052000 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Unease and confusion mounted yesterday within the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) upper echelons over versions that three of its top leaders, secretaries-general Osvaldo Borda, Jorge Triaca, and Ramon Baldassini, had secretly met with President Raul Alfonsin and Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo in Olivos on Thursday. Saul Ubaldini, the CGT secretary general who did not participate in the meeting, held a press conference yesterday morning, following a telephone conversation with Barrionuevo, to announce the workers confederation would meet with the President on Wednesday morning. Asked about the Olivos conclave, Ubaldini said "we hope it did not take place; we have faith in our fellow workers and are certain they can confirm their nonparticipation" in those talks, for otherwise "it would be an act of disloyalty." Other CGT leaders were much harsher in their reaction to the reported secret meeting, saying "if we're going to bare our teeth, then let's really bare them. We can't be threatening tough positions and at the same time go on talking with the government," they claimed.

While both government and labour sources confirmed the report, Borda denied any such meeting had taken place. He admitted he had left early from an executive board meeting because he was called by his union "about a problem" and that Baldassini and Triaca had previously announced having "other commitments," which also required their leaving early, but neither he nor the other two men had "attended any secret meeting with President Alfonsin." Nonetheless, the CGT decided to "push forward to Monday afternoon its meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, because the incident merits an explanation."

Several labour leaders pointed out that even though the encounter did not take place, it would not alter the plenary decision to suspend the CGT's participation in the socio-economic contract talks, which are also set for next Monday. They also said that in earlier board meetings, some of those who are said to have met with the president were among the hard-liners favouring withdrawal instead of mere suspension of CGT participation in the social contract talks. One "suggested carrying out a 36-hour strike, and even mentioned a possible date," they added.

Meanwhile, the CGT announced last night it would attend the meeting of the political committee of the social pact on Thursday, as a gesture to the president who agreed to meet with them on Wednesday. Alfonsin will meet with the political committee the following day. At the meeting with the chief executive, the CGT leaders will place special emphasis on winning back union control over workers' benefit programme funds, the resumption of collective bargaining talks, job security and the plight of state workers -- points underlined in a statement by the workers confederation on Thursday.

Labour leaders seemed worried as to whether or not business will go along with the first of their priorities, the workers' benefit funds. They said that some businessmen were showing their anti-Peronist feelings and denying the workers' right to those funds, whenever the subject came up.

While waiting for the controversy within their ranks to subside, following news of the secret rendezvous in Olivos, CGT sources insisted that the government had only 15 to 20 days to start dealing with problems affecting workers.

TALKS TO RESOLVE PERONIST SPLIT CONTINUE

PY051940 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Buenos Aires Province Justicialist boss Herminio Iglesias yesterday said there could possibly be changes in the controversial National Council of the party elected last month by a party congress in the absence of most provincial delegates. Iglesias told a press conference in the San Fernando suburb talks were being held with the dissidents who walked out of the congress and went to court to challenge the election held after their walkout. The controversy virtually split the party down the middle with the dissidents announcing they would call a separate congress on February 2 either in Tucuman or Santiago del Estero.

Lower house member Norberto Imbelloni, an Iglesias supporter, said Saul Ubaldini, one of the four secretaries-general of the General Labour Congederation (CGT), would probably be appointed second vice-president of the party replacing Metalworkers leader Lorenzo Miguel. But Iglesias, who was elected secretary of the council, would not be replaced, Imbelloni said. The legislator said the congress would be reconvened in Buenos Aires before the date set by the provincial delegates for their congress.

Iglesias said there were about 12 posts on the council still unfilled and added if it was necessary for him to step down he would. Iglesias, who has met with strong opposition within his own party, claimed there was a press compaign against Peronism and strongly criticized the Radical government and President Raul Alfonsin, whom he compared to the late President Juan Peron. "Alfonsin is not Peron; he is a mediocre politician, while the general was a leader. He (Alfonsin) is a sham and shams are an invention even though they take up our flag," he said.

GRINSPUN, OTHER OFFICIALS DISCUSS REVENUE SHARING

PY051930 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun met last night with economy ministers from non-Radical provinces to discuss the issue of revenue sharing after failure by Congress to extend regulations on the system which expired on December 31. At press time, the meeting was still continuing.

Earlier the provincial ministers issued a statement in which they demanded Treasury Secretary Norberto Bertaina maintain the central government's contributions to the provinces in the 1985 budget at the same level in real terms as those included in last year's budget. Last year's budget provided for the central government to remit 193 billion pesos at their June value to the provinces. The provincial ministers also wanted the remittances to be made on their due dates to avoid delays in payments of wages and other commitments by the provincial governments.

Bertaina had earlier issued a statement claiming remittances made up to December were far higher in real terms than the budget provisions and saying they were all paid up punctually.

The remittances are made not only in respect of revenue sharing but also in respect of social security payments, as well as non-repayable contributions by the Treasury.

The provincial ministers said they were willing to waive claims to their part of increases in tax collections made by the federal government but asked the government to adjust its contributions when it issues measures affecting the commitments of the provinces.

GOVERNMENT CALLS ELECTIONS FOR CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

PY051722 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1126 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] According to a decree issued last night at Government House, the executive branch has called elections for national deputies for 3 November 1985. Decree No 2 establishes that elections will be called in all electoral districts throughout the country in keeping with what is established in Articles No 53 and 54 of the national Electoral Code, Decree No 2135, issued on 18 August 1983. The clauses of the executive branch decree note that ordinary elections for the Chamber of Deputies must be held to replace those deputies whose term expires on 10 December 1985.

JEWS SAY ALFONSIN REJECTS PLO OFFICE INSTALLATION

PY050150 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2054 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Jan (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin has rejected every possibility of bringing to this land foreign problems which would cause confrontation among Argentine communities. This statement was made by David Golberg, head of the Delegation of Argentina Jewish Associations (DAIA), with reference to the thinking of President Alfonsin about the possible official installation of a PLO office in Argentina.

Golberg, who led a DAIA delegation which met today with Alfonsin, emphasized that the Argentina democracy and state of law is an example for South America.

Regarding the possible installation of a PLO office in the country, Golberg said that every attempt to build a dialogue with that organization generates deep concern within the Argentine Jewish communities. In this respect, Golberg said, the president categorically stated that no attempt had been made and none will be made to change the ethical and moral principles of this government as outlined during the electoral campaign or to bring to this land foreign problems which would disrupt coexistence, cultural pluralism, and the existence of Argentine organizations.

BRIEFS

IV CORPS COMMANDER -- Santa Rosa (La Pampa), 3 Jan (TELAM) -- Army General Staff Chief Major General Ricardo Gustavo Pianta today installed Brigadier General Angel Mario Medone as the new IV Corps commander. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1436 GMT 3 Jan 85 PY]

INFANTRY BRIGADE COMMANDER -- Posadas, 27 Dec (TELAM) -- Colonel Esteban Pompilio Ferrucci has been appointed new commander of the 12th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Posadas, Misiones Province. He will be sworn in on 28 December. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1555 GMT 27 Dec 84 PY]

JOINT STAFF CHIEF PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY

PY070155 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1951 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 5 Jan (EFE) -- The nation's Armed Forces will guarantee the democratic process in Bolivia, Chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff General Walter Antezana Palacios stated at the ceremony where he was installed in office. The Armed Forces "will make it possible for elections to be held on the scheduled date (16 June) and for the government to be transferred to the winner of the elections on 6 August," Gen Antezana Palacios said last Friday.

Gen Antezana Palacios replaced General Raul Lopez Leyton who had been appointed by President Siles Zuazo as commander in chief of the Army, thus in turn replacing General Jose Olvis Arias who rebelled against the government on 29 December upon learning that he had been replaced.

As reported by the newspaper PRESENCIA, Gen Antezana Palacios said at his installation ceremony that "the officers must be examples of respect for and compliance with the nation's Constitution, not examples of violation." He also said that "it is imperative that we always be united," because "only by being united will we be able to face up to all persons, groups, or ideologies that may attempt to destroy the Armed Forces."

IRREGULARITIES HALT WHEAT DEAL WITH ARGENTINA

PY051554 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0210 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 4 Jan (EFE) -- The Bolivian Finance Ministry has halted an operation to purchase 130,000 tons of wheat from the Argentine National Grain Board because of irregularities in the contract. According to Finance Minister Gualberto Mercado, the wheat is overpriced by $6 per ton, which represents an overpayment of $780,000 by Bolivia.

The contract, which was signed in Buenos Aires on 20 December by Commerce Under Secretary Jaime Rocabado, establishes that each ton of wheat costs $125. However, the price of wheat in Argentina at the time was $117 per ton plus almost $2 more to cover port and commission fees.

The Bolivian press reported that Gualberto Mercado has submitted the appropriate documents to President Siles Zuazo, who will make a decision on the matter, but that meanwhile the Bolivian Central Bank has stopped the transaction.

For his part, Hugo Montero Mur, the industry and commerce minister, has told journalists that the price of $125 per ton was imposed by the Argentine National Grain Board because Bolivia, unlike other countries, cannot meet its short-term obligations and needs to open a letter of credit. Despite the fact that he believes that this contract is good for national interests, Hugo Montero added that he is willing to cancel the contract, but he noted that 9 months ago Bolivia purchased wheat at $148 per ton.

BRIEFS

1984 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE -- Employment Director General Jose Gironda has told the newspaper El DIARIO that the unemployment rate reached 15 percent during 1984, compared to 13.5 percent in 1983. [Summary] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Dec 84 p 3 PY]

FIGUEIREDO UNDERGOES EMERGENCY SPINAL SURGERY

PY051146 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpts] President Joao Figueiredo underwent spinal surgery yesterday afternoon in a Rio de Janeiro clinic, and he is currently doing very well. Today, Saturday, and tomorrow, Sunday, he will rest, and on Monday he will begin to carry out his normal activities. He will meet with ministers and study matters of state at the San Jose Clinic.

The possibility that Vice President Aureliano Chaves would take over as interim president was not even considered by the government. In Brasilia, Chaves did not want to comment on the matter.

[Begin report from Brasilia] Vice President Aureliano Chaves has also noted that there will be no need for him to take over as interim president in view of the positive report on Figueiredo's health that was released after the operation. [end report]

Continues To Conduct Business

PY070125 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1843 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Jan (EFE) -- Although he had to undergo surgery, President Figueiredo resisted transferring power temporarily to Vice President Aureliano Chaves. Figueiredo and Chaves have drifted apart since early 1984 because of deep personal and political differences.

During the spinal operation that lasted more than 2 hours, Brazil was technically without a president, because during that time Figueiredo was not able to tend to matters of state, according to legal experts. Despite his health problems, Figueiredo is determined to hold onto the role of main protagonist during the last stretch of the road leading Brazil back to full democracy after two decades of authoritarian governments.

In his bed at the Sao Jose Clinic in Rio de Janeiro where he underwent emergency spinal surgery in view of the worsening of his lumbar problem, the 66-year-old president reasserted that "I will govern until the last day of my official term."

Figueiredo said that he will return to Brasilia by 15 January to be present when the Electoral College convenes to elect the civilian successor to whom Figueiredo will transfer power on 15 March. The Brazilian president will return to conducting government business from his bed at the Sao Jose Clinic beginning Monday, 7 January.

PLANS UNDER WAY TO PRODUCE GUIDED MISSILE

PY062040 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] The manufacture and operation of an air-to-surface medium-range missile, the Martin Pescador [Kingfish] ASM-2, by Argentina, as reported yesterday by O ESTADO and JORNAL DA TARDE, "will not be a factor of imbalance of defense forces in South America," according to a statement made by an official of the Brazilian Air Force [FAB] Joint Staff who is connected to the area of military research. This officer has asserted that "in the next 2 years, Brazil will have its weapon of that kind, and its preliminary technical design foresees a missile of greater configuration."

In accordance with a project being jointly planned by the Navy and the Air Force, the Brazilian missile will have a 40-kilometer range, will be guided by a computer-linked radar, and will carry at 150-kilogram warhead.

At least two Brazilian enterprises are in the position to execute the air-to-surface missile project within the deadlines that will be set by the Navy and Aeronautics Ministries: Airspace Avibras and ABC-Teletra. The first one has its own model, the Barracuda, which incorporates state-of-the art electronics, while the second one offers a "'Brazilianized"' version of the Otomat missile, a sophisticated missile manufactured by a European consortium made up of Italy, France, and the FRG.

JOINT DRUG COMMITTEE SET UP WITH VENEZUELA

PY050021 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] A Brazilian-Venezuelan joint committee will hold their first meeting about drugs at the Itamaraty Palace from 8-10 January. Some of the themes to be discussed are repression of drug trafficking and prevention of wrongful drug use.

The Brazilian delegation will be headed by the Secretary General of the Justice Ministry Artur Castilho Neto who is also president of the Federal Council of Drugs.

The Venezuelan delegation will be headed by the Venezuelan Ambassador to Brazil (Eduardo Omar Calderon).

COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORTERS ARRESTED, RELEASED

PY041352 Sao Paulo ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Three Sao Paulo University employees were detained on the evening of 1 January by policemen carrying out "Operation Polo". The employees were pasting up signs of the outlawed Communist Revolutionary Party [PRC] in the vicinity of the Biomedical Sciences Institute on the university campus. They are laboratory technician Luiz Aurelios de Moura, ECA [expansion unknown] employee Magno de Carvalho Costa, and School of Philosophy employee Rosana Boullara. They were all taken to the 51st police station, where they were released after a report on the event was entered into the records.

The policemen seized some 30 signs bearing a manifesto entitled "Maluf Represents No Hope, Tancredo Represents No Change." Signed by the PRC Central Committee, the manifesto asks workers and the people to boycott the Electoral College. The document, which is dated December 1984, says that Maluf represents "the most reactionary position of the financial capital" and that he is "the legitimate child of the military regime." It also condemns Tancredo Neves on the grounds that he has formed "a conservative alliance that defends the interests of the bourgeoisie." In the final part of the manifesto, the PRC advocates "immediate direct elections with broad political freedom, without the IMF, without the National Security Law, and with freedom and autonomy for unions." Among other things, it demands "that the military regime be terminated, that house rentals be frozen for 1 year, and that a radical agrarian reform be implemented."

The three university employees stated that they are "supporters" of the PRC, an organization created approximately 1 year ago by dissident sectors of the Workers Party and of many unrecognized political groups. According to Luiz Aurelio de Moura, the circulation of PRC pamphlets on the university campus and the painting of PRC initials on the walls have been "a test of the regime-sponsored political opening regarding the dissemination of our ideas." He said that their detention "has curtailed freedom of opinion and freedom of expression." The three employees will be summoned to make a statement before the federal police.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS VICARIATE PETITION

PY050115 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Chilean Supreme Court has rejected the petition submitted by the head of the Vicariate of Solidarity, Msgr Santiago Tapia, who asked for the designation of a judge to investigate the declaration made by a former security agent who participated in the arrest and disappearance of several people. Msgr Tapia's request is based on the testimony of Andres Valenzuela, a former security agent and former Air Force member, published in Caracas, Venezuela. The former agent confessed to having participated in the arrest and disappearance of five people.

FURTHER ON 3 JAN SHOOT-OUT IN MAIPU DISTRICT

PY051344 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] An official National Social Communications Agency [Dinacos] communique says that the girlfriend of the terrorist killed during the shoot-out in Maipu has been put at the disposal of the military prosecutor. The communique says that Emilia Rosa Lopez Cifuentes has been put at the disposal of the Third Military Court of Santiago. She was the girlfriend of the terrorist who died in the clash with National Intelligence Center [CNI] personnel at 1594 Victoria Street in the Maipu neighborhood on 3 January. The official report adds that the woman worked as a secretary at the Vector Institute at 24 C Dr Barros Borgona Street, a cover organization for the Socialist Party, which is financed from abroad. According to information the woman has given to the CNI, there was an underground cache of explosives in the yard of the Victoria Street house. Fortunately, the cache did not blow up when the house burned down. In the cache, 50 sticks of dynamite, 53 meters of cord, 150 shotgun cartridges, and a large number of subversive documents of the outlawed Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] were found. The Dinacos communique then says that the identification of the terrorist killed in the clash will be difficult to ascertain because he used several names. The initial investigations have shown that he acted under the names of Juan Castillo Palma, Guillermo Munoz, and Rodrigo Pacheco; and that his girlfriend knew about all of these names. It has also been found that the extremist had lived at the house on Victoria Street since November 1983, that he seems to have entered the country clandestinely in 1981, and that he belonged to the military branch of the outlawed MIR.

Vector Director Arrested, Released

PY051757 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1311 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 5 Jan (EFE) -- Guillermo Ortiz Romero, a lawyer and director of the Vector Institute of Socioeconomic Studies, has been released after 9 hours after being arrested. The National Intelligence Center (CNI) had arrested Ortiz Romero along with economist Alejandro Solari, political scientist Marcelo Schiling, and secretaries Emilia Rosa Lopez Cifuentes and Maria Veronica Vallejos. The five arrested people were at the Vector Institute when CNI agents raided the offices on 3 January and confiscated research material. According to what Government Secretary General Francisco Javier Cuadra reported that day, the people who were arrestedwere holding a clandestine meeting of the outlawed Socialist Party. He added that the CNI also confiscated political and subversive papers. Ortiz Romero was released and a petition has been submitted in favor of the other four people. The petition, which was submitted by the Santiago archbishop's Vicariate of Solidarity office, requests that a judge go to CNI headquarters where the people in question are reportedly detained to request that they be placed at the disposal of a civilian court.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER SHINTARO ABE VISITS

OW040507 Tokyo KYODO in English 0502 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, Colombia, Jan. 3 KYODO -- Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe arrived here Thursday night (Friday morning Japan time) for an official visit to Colombia until Saturday.

Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo and others greeted Abe at the airport. Abe came here from Los Angeles, where he joined a summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and U.S. President Ronald Reagan Wednesday.

While in Bogota, Abe will have talks with President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Minister Ramirez on the latest Central American situation, economic cooperation and other topics.

Abe is the first Japanese cabinet minister to make an official visit to Colombia.

He is scheduled to leave here Saturday night (Sunday evening Japan time) to visit Honolulu via Los Angeles. Abe will return to Tokyo Wednesday afternoon (Japan time).

Meets Betancur

OW050241 Tokyo KYODO in English 0204 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, Jan. 4 KYODO -- Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Colombian President Belisario Betancur called for peaceful settlement of disputes in El Salvador and Nicaragua during a meeting at the presidential office Friday.

Abe is the first Japaense foreign minister to visit Colombia, which has played a key role in efforts to find a settlement of conflicts between U.S.-backed rightist and Soviet-supported leftist forces in the Central American countries.

During the one-hour meeting, the two also discussed the foreign debt crises of Central and South American countries, and agreed that talks to resolve the problem should continue among the countries concerned. The accumulated external debt of Latin American countries is estimated at about 350 billion dollars. Dr Betancur told Abe the debt crisis requires more than a financial solution, according to Japanese officials accompanying the foreign minister.

Abe flew into Bogota Thursday after attending talks in Los Angeles between Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Abe later met Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, and welcomed Colombian efforts to balance trade between the countries by increasing exports to Japan. During the meeting, Abe also said Japan will send a mission to Colombia to work out details of medical equipment aid the South American country has requested.

Ramirez accepted Abe's invitation to visit Japan by the end of March 1986, according to the Japanese officials.

The two foreign ministers signed an agreement under which Japan will lend Colombia 20.7 billion yen (82 million dollars) for a hydro-electric station. Japan has lent Colombia 33 billion yen so far this financial year, which lasts until the end of March.

Abe also agreed to send young people to Colombia under a program similar to the American Peace Corps.

He is scheduled to leave here for Los Angeles Saturday and return to Tokyo Wednesday after a brief stay in Honolulu.

Ends Visit

PA061304 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1853 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, 5 Han (DPA) -- Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe concluded a 3-day official visit to this capital, where he was warmly welcomed, today. He said that he was pleased over the effects that his stay in Bogota will have on various areas of the two countries' relations.

The Japanese official, the first of his rank to make an official visit to Colombia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1908, met with President Belisario Betancur, his Colombian counterpart Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, ministers of the economic sector, Bogota Mayor Hisnardo Ardila, private business leaders, and Japanese residents.

Abe, who praised the foreign policy being carried out by Betancur, particularly in Latin America, and the efforts to implement a peace process in Central America, stated that his country supports the efforts made by the Contadora Group -- Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Mexico -- and noted that he is willing to help in this task as much as he can.

During this visit, the only visit made to a Latin American country at this time, the Japanese minister laid the groundwork for an increase in economic and trade relations with Colombia, and promised to send Japanese experts to Colombia to help in various areas of economic development, technology, education, and culture.

Abe, who signed notes of commitment with his Colombian counterpart to lend Colombia $88.3 million at a 4.75 annual interest rate payable in 25 years, including a 7-year grace period, for the construction of a large hydroelectric plant in Valle del Cauca Department (in the country's southwest), received the highest decoration granted by the Colombian state to foreign dignataries: the Order of the Cross of Boyaca.

The visitor also promised that his government will carefully study a Colombian petition so that Japan can help finance a new potable water supply project for Bogota.

In addition to peace in Central America, during his stay Abe expressed concern over the high indebtedness level currently experienced by Latin American countries. He said that at top meetings of the industrialized nations Japan has spoken on behalf of these countries in an effort to promote better conditions so that they can meet their foreign economic obligations.

BETANCUR ANNOUNCES CONTADORA MEETING IN PANAMA

OW050857 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, Jan 4 KYODO -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur said Friday that foreign ministers of four Central American countries will meet next week to discuss peace in their region. He said the four foreign ministers of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Colombia, Panana and Venezuela -- will meet in Panama to discuss a revised draft of the peace plan charted earlier.

President Betancur touched on the Central American peace plan during an hour-long interview he gave to Japanese newsmen accompanying Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe. Abe met with the president earlier in the day after his arrival here as the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Colombia on an official trip.

The president said the Contadora Group has been working for nearly two years on peace in Central America, adding that the group currently is drawing up a commentary -- a revised draft -- to go with the original peace plan. He said the foreign ministers, meeting in Panama next week will discuss the revised portion of the peace plan.

Sources accompanying Abe, meanwhile, said that the planned foreign ministers meeting will probably be held on Tuesday and that the group will make public the revised peace plan on Wednesday.

Betancur said foreign ministers of the five nations involved in the current Central American strife -- El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua -- will be asked to gather after the proposed revised peace plan is completed. He said the dispute in Central America should be resolved by the will of the countries in the region. He said he hoped there will be no U.S. military intervention, and added that he cannot allow a big power to bring destruction to another country. The president said he believed the United States is inclined to see a peaceful settlement to the Central American problem. Betancur said that Japan is a nation working for peace and that it can play a role in the economic and social fields for stability of Central America.

NICARAGUAN MINISTER TINOCO ARRIVES 'UNEXPECTEDLY'

PA042153 Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco arrived unexpectedly tonight in Bogota to meet with Colombian Government representatives to discuss the Central American situation.

Tinoco reiterated the stand of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction that a peaceful solution is impossible in Central America without a previous agreement between Washington and Managua ending U.S. covert operations in Nicaraguan border areas.

He also reiterated that his country has not dismissed the possibility of a U.S. military intervention, although negotiations between Nicaraguan and U.S. delegates continue in the Mexican port of Manzanillo. However, Tinoco abstained from commenting on the matters being discussed at those meetings. He again praised the Contadora Group efforts, but insisted that those efforts will yield a positive result only if Nicaragua and the United States first reach an agreement.

The deputy minister said: "For example, so long as the United States continues to give millions of dollars and arms to counterrevolutionary groups, so long as there is no agreement between Nicaragua and the United States defining a framework of understanding, we can hardly expect an agreement in Central America."

DEFENSE MINISTER MATAMOROS DIES AT AGE 56

PA051257 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1213 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Bogota, 5 Jan (EFE) -- Colombian Defense Minister General Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa died early this morning after suffering from cancer for a long time. He was 56. Cavalry General Matamoros, who had been defense minister since 20 January 1984, died at his home at 0315 local time [0815 GMT].

Shortly afterward, his body was taken to the Bogota military hospital where President Belisario Betancur is scheduled to go. Betancur expressed his deep regret over the minister's death.

The body will be taken to the national capitol at 0900 local time where it will lie in state. The body will be interred tomorrow in "Remembrance Gardens" on the outskirts of the Colombian capital.

PRESIDENT BETANCUR SIGNS LAW TO BUILD CANAL

PA052133 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Law No 53 signed by President Belisario Betancur on 28 December]

[Text] The Congress of the Republic decrees:

Article 1. The construction of the Atrato-Trunando interoceanic canal through Choco Department is hereby ordered.

Article 2. The president of the Republic is given special specific powers for 4 years effective upon the issuance of this law to enable him to take the necessary steps to lay the groundwork for the construction of the Atrato-Truando interoceanic canal through Choco Department.

Article 3. The president of the Republic can create a joint venture or any other national organization whose objective will be to comply with that which the law prescribes.

Article 4. This firm will be made up exclusively of the following partners:

A. The mission [not further identified]
B. The departments
C. The municipalities
D. Any private individual and joint venture companies
G. [letter as heard] Any public or private credit association

Foreign persons or companies cannot be partners or shareholders in this company under any circumstances.

Articel 5. Within the framework of the special powers granted by this law, the president of the Republic may order the contracting of local or foreign loans and the opening of credits, or may make the necessary transfers and appropriations in the budgets of the next periods.

Article 6. The national government is also empowered to grant concessions, if it deems appropriate, to private companies it views as technically and economically capable of the construction of the canal.

Article 7. This law goes into effect upon its signing.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON COCAINE-PROCESSING CHEMICALS

PY041727 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1622 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Asuncion, 4 Jan (EFE) -- The Paraguayan Government has not yet decided what to do with the shipment of cocaine-processing chemicals that was smuggled into the country from Brazil in transit to Bolivia in September 1984. The shipment is made up of 387 barrels of acetone, 196 barrels of ethyl ether, and 816 barrels of hydrochloric acid, all chemicals used in processing cocaine.

Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro told EFE today that the government will make its decision once the proceedings of the investigation now under way are completed. Minister Montanaro said that the findings of the investigation being conducted at the proper levels will dictate the government's decision, but he noted that the shipment will not be sold off as some people are supposing we will do.

The shipment, which was loaded in several trucks, was seized in the border city of President Stroessner on 22 September 1984. It is now in court custody at the National Institute of Normalization and Technology. The Customs General Directorate, which seized the shipment, first planned to destroy it. However, it changed its mind and the case was then turned over to the ordinary criminal affairs court presided over by Judge Oscar Martinez Cabral. Since the courts are on holiday recess during January, there is hardly any possibility that the judge will soon hand down a decision in the case, which has drawn the attention of various public opinion sectors. Montanaro told EFE that when all the procedures are concluded, the government will study the measures it plans to adopt.

The press and some political sectors of the opposition have requested that the shipment be destroyed, but according to some sources it could be used by institutions of higher education and by the local pharmaceutical concerns. EFE was told today within the sphere of the Foreign Affairs Ministry that the U.S. Government has made known to the Paraguayan Government its concern over the failure to destroy the chemicals, because it fears that they will fall into the hands of drug traffickers. We share that concern, Paraguayan Foreign Ministry spokesman told EFE, and the U.S. diplomats did not force the issue, which, the spokesman added, we would not have accepted.

Official sources have also rejected a report from Washington that indicates that a request for an audience with President Alfredo Stroessner to discuss the topic requested by U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis has been torpedoed. The Foreign Ministry sources that EFE consulted indicated that the proof that everything has been channeled appropriately and that there is no interest in allowing the chemicals to fall into the hands of the drug traffickers is the fact that all procedures have been made public and that nothing has been hidden. It was added that we share the concern that the United States has regarding the handling of the chemicals, as we fight drug trafficking with the same force that we fight terrorism. Finally, the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry souces denied that the issue could influence bilateral relations, which are, they said, at an excellent level.

U.S. Sale Suggested

PY052345 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 5 Jan 85 p 3

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "A Dangerous Cargo"]

[Text] Some interesting thoughts must be raised regarding the smuggling of chemical products that were intercepted by President Stroessner City custom officials and that are now at the disposal of the courts because of the process that has been undertaken to clear up the crime.

According to reliable sources, this is a large cargo of chemical products that can be used to manufacture large quantities of cocaine. According to the EFE news agency, the cargo was smuggled into Paraguay "through Brazil, and Bolivia was its destination." The origin of the products is not specified, but if they come from the other side of the ocean they had to be unloaded at a port on the Atlantic, either that of Santos or Paranagua, and to have crossed through Brazil up to the Paraguayan border.

Moreover, if the merchandise does indeed come from a country outside the Americas, the first place that comes to mind is Europe, and within Europe, some industrialized country that could not overlook such a shipment to developing or so-called Third World countries. In view of the use of these products, it is obvious that the place of origin should have taken the proper measures to hold this shipment or to assure that it would not be used for illegal purposes.

This alone may raise suspicion about the cargo and its destination, but the truth is that it became an issue only when the cargo was intercepted and confiscated while all the background infromation on the case is kept silent. But this can be viewed as a case involving a commercial shipment from a rich country to an underdeveloped area of the world for an obvious purpose, obvious since the final destination of these products, which was Bolivia, is strongly tied to the manufacturing and trafficking of cocaine for the United States, just as are Peru, Colombia, some border areas of Ecuador, and ports of shipment in the Brazilian Amazon region, according to news agency reports.

But the most irritating aspect of this information process lies in the fact that it became known worldwide at the expense of our country despite the fact that it was Paraguayan authorities who intercepted the cargo, who charged that it was an illegal procedure, who requested the intervention of the courts, and who confiscated the cargo in keeping with the law.

Once the case is investigated in detail, and the court confirms the confiscation of the cargo, the cargo will pass to the state in keeping with the law.

Since the cargo in question is no ordinary shipment of foods or household appliances, and since it is probably worth a large sum of money, the interior minister did well when, according to EFE, he answered that "the government will make the proper decision once the court proceedings are over." In so doing he assured that later on we will not be forced to pay an indemnization for damages to the owner of the cargo for not doing things properly if, after all, the proper documentation does appear and it is proven that there was no intention of smuggling the cargo into the country but rather of transiting it through Paraguay as was apparently done through Brazil.

One must keep in mind that the original salesman must be from an industrialized country and that there are very powerful interests at stake; however, Paraguay's official position in this regard is categorical: Interior Minister Montanaro has warned that "the products will not be sold" in Paraguay. And it is at this point that we express a logical thought: If the merchandise came from an industrialized country, an exporter of capital and manufactured goods; if it was illegally introduced into a developing country by smuggling it through other territories; if because of its destination the products were most certainly going to be used in the manufacture of drugs; and if the most important drug markets are Western industrialized nations, mainly the United States, it is then these countries that are the main beneficiaries of the opportune action of President Stroessner City custom officials and of the court proceedings which are properly handling the case that has acquired international attention.

But there is still one last question to be answered. Once it has been proven that the cargo is illegal and the cargo is confiscated, the state becomes the legal owner. These are chemical products that may be used in the manufacture of cocaine, the final destination of which are the aforementioned countries. However, these products can also be used in other legal activities; therefore, their economic value should not be exclusively tied to illegal activities. If the United States is justly concerned over this cargo, there is no reason why it cannot acquire it.

According to EFE, "the U.S. Government has expressed to the Paraguayan Government its concern over the destruction of these chemical products since it fears that they may fall into the hands of drugs traffickers." Therefore, if the United States acquires the merchandise the whole situation will be solved, there would be no reason for worry, and the products that were brought from one industrialized country would be returned to another for proper legal use.

SEPULVEDA ON CENTRAL AMERICA, OTHER ISSUES

FL042032 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Bernardo Sepulveda considers that a direct U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua is not feasible at this time. He says there has been a noticeable trend toward negotiation in that region. In an interview broadcast on television Channel 13, the secretary of foreign relations said that one example of this trend toward negotiations on the Central American conflict is the 10th round of talks between the United States and Nicaragua which will be held this month in Manzanillo, Colima, in northern Mexico. Sepulveda does not expect spectacular results from the Manzanzillo meetings; he said that the negotiations will require a great deal of patience and an investment in diplomacy and political action to find a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. He added that another favorable development is the series of talks and negotiations between the Salvadoran Government and the Salvadoran insurgents, which constitute a recognition of what Mexico recommended in October 1981.

He said that the fact that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Gromyko will meet this Monday is already a political event that should be judged in terms of a possible rebirth of detente. He said that to the degree to which the two great powers reach political agreement on disarmament and arms control, there will necessarily be beneficial effects on other areas of regional tension.

Regarding recent reports from the Senate of the Republic stating that Mexican and U.S. policy on Central America do not coincide, Sepulveda said the members of the Senate faithfully interpreted Mexican foreign policy regarding its advocation for peace. When asked whether Mexican political sovereignty has been lessened by its foreign debt or by the agreements that Mexico has with international banks or the IMF, the foreign secretary said Mexico's ability to make decisions autonomously and independently has not been affected.

He rejected the suggestion that Mexican foreign policy on Central America could be reversed because, he said, Mexico is a country in an intermediate stage of development and it would be absurd to remain impassive toward events on the international political level. He said the main goal of Mexican foreign policy is the defense of national interests abroad by participating, pledging, and transforming [as received], and we could hardly have the satisfaction of such participation if we maintained a passive attitude. Those who recommend passivity are surely ignoring the enormous risks, the grave dangers to our country, of nonparticipation in building an international order that faithfully reflects the nature of the principles that guide Mexican foreign policy, he stated.

With regard to the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, Sepulveda said its basic aim was not necessarily to repatriate Mexican migratory workers. Its basic intention was to provide an immigration policy for the United States. He said that although that bill was buried in the archives of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives because they did not reach agreement on the bill, one should not ignore the possibility that protectionist tendencies of concern to the international community may reappear. This protectionism, he added, has different manifestations in trade, finance, immigration law, and politics, which all show tendencies toward isolationism. Sepulveda said that, if measures leading to the adoption of protectionist immigration legislation reappear in the U.S. Congress, there should be a guarantee that our fellow citizens will receive the legal guarantees indispensable for respect of their human rights first of all, and also of respect for their working and social rights.

MILITARY EXERCISES WITH U.S. DRAW COMMENT

Military Spokesman on Exercises

PA060415 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 5 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Panamanian and U.S. troops will begin joint military exercises called "Brazier Trail" and "Kindly Liberty" in an area of Los Santos Province and other exercises will be held in southern Veraguas Province. Both exercises are contemplated in the Torrijos-Carter treaties but, according to Major Edgardo Lopez, public relations director for the National Defense Forces, the emphasis will be placed on civic action programs. "They are not maneuvers but exercises," the military spokesman stressed to foreign correspondents, noting that the former implies combat troops and the use of sophisticated weapons, which will not be used in these military exercises. The exercises will be aimed at the defense of the canal and the training of Panamanian and U.S. military personnel who share responsibility in the defense of the canal. "There is nothing unusual, mysterious, or strange," the Panamanian military officer added, maintaining that these exercises were contemplated from the moment the Torrijos-Carter treaties went into effect. Lopez stressed that these exercises are not designed to attack any country of the Central American area and added that their basic objective is canal defense, while 35 percent of the emphasis will be on civic action in the Los Santos region and southern Veraguas where an engineering battalion will be in charge of completing roads that will open access paths for the products of the subregion. The "Brazier Trail" exercises will begin in February. The two exercises will last several weeks and will be carried out mainly under the supervision of the Defense Forces of Panama.

Noriega Comments

PA051938 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, today asserted that the Defense Forces have already made the necessary reduction in the organization's budget. He added: The budget that was presented is strictly related to national security. Gen Noriega indicated that both Panama and Costa Rica have achieved a balance in their respective budgets. Noriega said that Panama has not contributed financially to the joint exercises being conducted in Los Santos Province. Referring to comments against these exercises, Gen Noriega stressed:

[Begin recording] Well, you should ask the Azuero peninsula residents for their opinion on this. [end recording]

PRD Youth Say Treaties Violated

PA040430 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, youth has asked the government and the Defense Forces to suspend the joint military maneuvers being carried out with the U.S. Army in the Azuero region. The PRD youth say that the maneuvers violate the Torrijos-Carter treaties and could jeopardize the Contadora Group's peace efforts for Central America. Rubiel Cajar, national secretary of the PRD youth, explained that the "Minuteman" military maneuvers cannot go unnoticed especially during the 21st anniversary of the 9 January 1964 heroic campaign for peace, neutrality, and sovereignty.

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL CALLS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA

FL050228 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister of Belize, Mr Manuel Esquivel, has said his government feels the time is ripe to press for a solution to the Guatemalan claim. Mr Esquivel was speaking at the small ceremony this afternoon in Belmopan, to inaugurate [word indistinct], the official residence of the city's high commissioner. Mr Esquivel said his government seeks to (?settle) the British commitment to remain in Belize.

[Begin Esquivel recording] [Words indistinct] The independent Belize welcomes the presence of British troops on our soil. Indeed, we seek to strengthen the British commitment for them to remain in Belize. Such a commitment could be (?fleshed) out in a formula which provides the clear understanding that the troops would not leave until either the Guatemalan claim is settled or other suitable defense and security arrangements have been put in place.

My government recognizes quite clearly that troop commitment on the part of the British Government would require an equally solemn commitment from the Government of Belize. Our commitment would be to pursue actively and expeditiously good faith negotiations with Guatemala in order to find an honorable, just, and lasting solution to the problem. None of us wants British troops to remain in Belize [word indistinct] future. Such a situation would not be in the interest of Belize nor the United Kingdom.

I would like to state quite categorically that the Government of Belize is prepared to resume the negotiating process with Guatemala. Indeed, we would like to seek an early resumption of negotiations. Such negotiations must have for us as their principle objective the recognition of Belize's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We cannot help but feel the private right to press for a solution to the Guatemalan claim in conditions what will free both our countries to get on with the real business of peaceful cooperation and good neighborliness, that should (?oil) relations between states that share a common border.

We are aware that tentative steps have already been taken in Guatemala indicating a renewed commitment to a democratic process. Such steps ought to be translated into real terms by recognition of Belize's democratic right to self-determine its own destiny and preserve its territorial integrity within its existing borders. [end recording]

PUP'S FLORENCIO MARIN NAMED HOUSE OPPOSITION LEADER

FL041736 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 23 Dec 84 p 14

[Text] An announcement made Wednesday from the Office of the Governor General in Belmopan appointed Mr Florencio Marin as leader of the opposition in the House of Representatives. Mr Marin is the People's United Party [PUP] General Secretary. He was among the 7 PUP candidates who won seats in the House in the Dec. 14 general elections.

The Rt. Hon. George Price is still national leader of the People's United Party.

Mr Price, by the way, is Right Honourable because he was honored with membership in the Privy Council (Britain).

COSTA RICA

CONFLICT ARISES WITH NICARAGUA OVER ASYLUM SEEKER

Gutierrez Comments

PA050024 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 2013 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Our country will not send a diplomatic delegation to the inauguration of Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has announced, adding that our country plans to submit two documents, one to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and another to the OAS Permanent Council.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] This morning, I gave instructions to draft two documents to be submitted to inter-American organizations, one to be submitted to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission dealing with the situation of Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, for whose physical security we are concerned, in which we will ask the commission to see that measures are taken to prevent anything from happening to Urbina Lara. The other document, to be submitted to the OAS Permanent Council, deals with respect for diplomatic asylum and for the safety of the personnel in the diplomatic mission. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Gutierrez discarded the possibility of severing relations with Nicaragua, because, he said, it is necessary to give every protection to Urbina Lara.

[Begin recording] What would be a reasonable attitude? To sever relations with Nicaragua? If the Costa Rican Government severed relations with Nicaragua, it would lose the opportunity to protect Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. Urbina Lara is not a Costa Rican and he is not linked in any way to the Costa Rican Government. But Urbina Lara is a human being for whose personal security the Costa Rican Government feels responsible.

The Costa Rican Government believes it is absolutely necessary to maintain relations with the Nicaraguan Government to guarantee the possibility of negotiations on this issue and a return to the earlier situation. It is necessary that we maintain the possibility of reaching peaceful solutions to our problems with Nicaragua. The Costa Rican Government believes that if it severed relations with Nicaragua, because of this incident or for any other reason, it would forfeit all possibilities of reaching peaceful solutions. [end recording]

In a note to Jose Leon Talavera, Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister, Foreign Minister Gutierrez reminded Talavera of his meeting with President Monge on 24 August of last year. On that occasion, Gutierrez said, I personally asked you to consider Urbina Lara a political refugee and to allow him to leave the country as soon as circumstances permitted. During the meeting, Talavera said he would act on our request, but we see that the Nicaraguan Government is violating the right of asylum, Foreign Minister Gutierrez concluded.

10 January Deadline Set

PA060123 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, 3 Jan (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government has given Nicaraguan officials until 10 January to return exile Jose Urbina, who according to the local Foreign Ministry, was forcefully taken from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua on 24 December.

Local media and former foreign ministers of a conservative trend have called for vigorous measures against Nicaragua that range from a break in relations to the convocation of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR), which contemplates eventual collective sanctions, including those of a military nature.

However, Gutierrez rejected such extreme measures, noting that relations will not be severed and the TIAR will not be convoked, but that every effort for a dialogue will be made.

Calderon Fournier Comments

PA050330 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, presidential candidate for the Social Christian Unity Party, has asserted that given the Sandinist government's lack of respect for our sovereignty, the violation of our embassy in Managua, and its refusal to turn over political refugee Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, the Costa Rican Government must assume a clear position in defense of our interests. As a direct consequence of such grave events, it is imperative to proceed immediately to temporarily withdraw our ambassador in Nicaragua, the presidential candidate said. He said that for the sake of peace and to prevent a worsening of the Central American crisis, the government must immediately convoke an urgent meeting of the OAS Permanent Council which will allow us to obtain, through the inter-American system, the respect that international treaties demand, because our territorial integrity has been repeatedly violated by the communist government in Managua.

Calderon Fournier said that if a satisfactory reply cannot be obtained from the Nicaraguan Government through the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, the logical step would be for the government to break off diplomatic relations with that nation.

He concluded that the violation perpetrated by the Sandinist government against our embassy in Managua, ignoring the most basic norms of international law and clearly showing disrespect for Costa Rican dignity and sovereignty, and subsequent refusal to release political refugee Jose Manuel Urbina Lara with corresponding explanations, demand a firm decision and position from our government.

Group Seeks Severing of Ties

PA060206 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Democratic Association asked President Luis Alberto Monge to immediately sever diplomatic, consular, and economic relations with Nicaragua. A communique signed by Orlando Castro Murillo, president of the Costa Rican Democratic Association, says that adoption of this extreme measure is necessary to restore the Costa Rican people's confidence in their authorities and laws.

The Costa Rican Democratic Association also asked for an urgent meeting of the OAS Permanent Council to analyze the repeated violations to our dignity and sovereignty by the Sandinist authorities.

According to the communique Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and President Monge should assume a strong position because this is what the country expects of them.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM MEXICO

PA060229 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] After spending several days in Mexico discussing matters related to the next Contadora Group meeting, Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina returned to our country this morning. While in Mexico, Urbina met with Ricardo Valero, Mexican deputy foreign secretary, with whom he discussed the objections that some Central American countries have made to the Contadora Group's peace plan. The Contadora Group foreign ministers will meet next Wednesday in Panama City, when the Contadora Group celebrates its second anniversary.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE KILLED IN 'POLITICAL BRAWL'

PA061829 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1821 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Jan (DPA) -- Presidential aide Pedro Rene Yanez, 57, was killed yesterday during a political brawl in Concepcion de Oriente, La Union Department. Four other persons were killed in that brawl with two rightist political leaders from the National Conciliation Party [PCN] and the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) headed by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. According to civilian eyewitnesses, PCN and ARENA members went into the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters in Concepcion de Oriente, where the skirmish took place.

CENTRIST POLITICAL PARTY FORMED, ISSUES MANIFESTO

PA060219 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 4 Jan 85 pp 3, 14

[Text] Political circles have reported the formation of a new political party, the Salvadoran Centrist Party [Partido Centrista Salvadoreno], PACES, under the leadership of Tomas Chafoya Martinez.

The new party, which emerged from within the ranks of student groups at the University of El Salvador, will not register to participate in the upcoming elections for municipal councillors and deputies. It added that although it plans to endorse determined political forces taking part in the elections it did not consider it suitable to disclose which forces these will be.

A manifesto issued by PACES and signed by Jose Dimas, chief of public relations of the Authentic Students Front [Frente Autentico Estudiantil], FAE, the mass organization from which the party emerged, reports that there will be a press conference at 0900 on Monday at the Alameda Hotel during which further details will be revealed.

The manifesto states that PACES does not oppose the right or the left, thus it takes a strictly centrist position.

It indicates that FAE, founded by Tomas Chafoya Martinez, who was a prominent student leader of the Law Students Association [Asociacion de Estudiates de Derecho], AE, and of the General Association of Salvadoran University Students, will be the new party's leader. It also says that FAE has achieved a great deal in the community.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AROUND COUNTRY REPORTED

PA060029 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Here are reports from eastern El Salvador. Units of the 3d Infantry Brigade, headquartered in San Miguel, clashed with FMLN leftists for 7 consecutive hours on El Chacho Hill, Sesori jurisdiction, yesterday in the afternoon and evening. Thus far, no casualties have been reported on either side. Also, 3d Infantry Brigade troops and rebels clashed late yesterday afternoon in El Volcancillo Hill jurisdiction, El Guapinol Hill, in Ciudad Barrios jurisdiction, on (El Chequeria) Hill, and on the outskirts of Sesori, near the cemetery. Army search operations increased today.

Other clashes between rebels and the Army, specifically against units of the 3d Infantry Brigade, were reported today on La Leona Hill, in Chapeltique jurisdiction. According to military reports one rebel was killed and a U.S.-made AR-15 rifle and military supplies were taken from him. Two Army soldiers were also wounded in this clash, according to military reports.

Also in eastern El Salvador, this time in Morazan Department, the following actions have been reported: Small patrols have continued to move through northern Morazan Department, particularly near the banks of the Torola River, north of Osicala, after leftists clashed with Army units there 2 days ago. Initial reports indicate that today, on the foothills of Cacahuatique Hill, Army units and rebels clashed for 7 consecutive hours. Reports indicate that four rebels were killed, while the Army sustained three wounded and one dead in that action. At the same time, it is said that artillery units have continued shelling leftist positions, particularly in Meanguera and Jocoaitique jurisdictions. The results of these actions are not yet known.

More reports from eastern El Salvador, especially Usulutan Department: Army and rebels units clashed last night in Jiquilisco jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. Reports indicate that Army troops clashed with rebels at Jiquilisco, approximately 80 km southeast of San Salvador, after units of the 6th Brigade who are operating in that area ambushed a group of guerrillas. A fighter was killed in that action. The clash lasted 1 hour, civilian and military sources confirmed today.

In La Union Department: The military operation in Santa Rosa de Lima and nearby cantons is under way with units of the Conchagua Battalion and artillery support. Military sources state that that battalion has made no contact with rebels in the past few days.

Back in San Miguel Department, it has been confirmed that a clash took place in Carolina last night. Civilian and military sources who reported the action said that troops of the 3d Infantry Brigade continue search operations in Carolina, which is close to Ciudad Barrios and Sesori. These operations began several days ago. They added that two soldiers were wounded in the clashes that took place in Carolina.

We continue our reports, now to central El Salvador. Clashes in northern Chalatenango Department became more intense this morning, while the troops participating in the actions are experiencing problems with their aerial support due to the strong winds that are sweeping through the region, military sources reported today. Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Press Committee has reported that in the area known as El Tunel, on the road to La Palma, leftist guerrillas of the FMLN ambushed a patrol and inflicted three casualties on the Army. The three, who were wounded, were transferred to San Salvador.

These are the first significant actions this year, after a 13-day truce that lasted through late December and was in effect throughout El Salvador and after a unilateral cease-fire decreed by leftist rebels.

Military sources reported today in Chalatenango Department that some 3,000 troops are being mobilized and that heavy fighting broke out early today in La Laguna, Ojos de Agua, and El Carrizal Provinces. This last village is only 2 km from the Salvadoran-Honduran border. Casualties on both sides have yet to be reported. It was confirmed that A-37 Dragonflys bombed rebel positions for 2 hours in northern Morazan Department. The El Carrizal area is near one of the points known as border pockets that are in dispute with the neighboring Honduras.

Here are the reports for San Salvador Department: A counterinsurgency operation began yesterday afternoon near Guazapa Volcano, 25 km north of San Salvador, military sources have reported. Troops of the 1st Brigade, artillery, National Guard, and Treasury Police of Guazapa are taking part in the search operation that is under way in that area. Sources have indicated that approximately 1,000 troops are participating in this brief operation which began yesterday afternoon. The operation includes artillery fire, which was heard early this morning.

In central El Salvador, also in San Salvador Department, it was confirmed today, through spokesmen at the Isidro Melendez Judicial Center, that three bodies were found. Two are at the military hospital, and they are the bodies of soldiers who had fought in various departments. The third is of a person who was killed in a traffic accident.

In La Paz Department, this morning's reports follow: Civilian sources stated today that yesterday evening a new antiguerrilla operation began in the Chichontepec Volcano area, specifically in the southern foothills. Early this morning heavy cannon fire directed at the rebel positions could be heard coming from the Tecoluca area, in San Vicente Department, and from the La Joya canton, where in December, guerrillas of the FMLN released 42 Army prisoners to church authorities, headed by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas. So far, military sources of the 5th Brigade have refused to confirm this report, but they have said that counterinsurgency operations that began yesterday near Cerros de San Pedro continue today for the second consecutive day.

GUATEMALA

ANDRADE SAYS DEMOCRACY TO BE CONSOLIDATED IN 1985

PA040422 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Yesterday, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said: "The year 1985 will be crucial for Guatemala politically. This year will be crucial because we must consolidate democracy as Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores promised." The minister was oulining the various programs planned for 1985.

At a press conference, the Guatemalan foreign minister said that the government will remain strongly committed to turning power over to a civilian government chosen in popular elections, which will be called after the constitution is completed.

On this topic, Andrade Diaz-Duran added that Gen Mejia Victores has repeatedly stated that there will be complete political neutrality and that there will be no military support for a particular group or candidate. The foreign minister said: "For this reason, I have indicated that this year will be crucial, precisely because the first step is to consolidate democracy, which is what the country currently needs most."

Andrade Diaz-Duran added that the government will contribute to helping find permanent peace in the area. Guatemala will give its unreserved support to the Contadora Group, which has been noted for its great efforts in seeking dialogue as a peaceful means of avoiding a confrontation among the region's brother nations, Andrade Diaz-Duran said.

On another matter, the minister stated that the government will conduct a much more aggressive foreign policy than in 1984 so as to continue improving the nation's image. The country has made very significant improvements thanks to the current regime's internal policies. The minister stated that some ambassadors have been replaced for this reason and there will be other changes to obtain the intended objectives.

ARMED FORCES REPORT FIGHTING IN EL QUICHE

PA052247 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] The Armed Forces' Public Relations Office has reported on clashes in El Quiche, where one soldier and an undetermined number of guerrillas have died in the past 24 hours. According to a bulletin, these clashes occurred in Playa Grande, Xalbal, Basuchil, and Uspantan in El Quiche Department. A military patrol clashed with rebel groups. Three unidentified guerrillas were killed. A similar incident occurred in Chajul in the same department where one soldier was killed and another was wounded. The Army confirmed that several rebels were killed, but the exact number of guerrilla casualties is not known. Meanwhile, the URNG issued a press bulletin stating that the guerrillas inflicted 37 casualties, both dead and wounded, on government troops in Huehuetenango and El Quiche Departments in December.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA DISCUSSES MISSING PERSONS, CONTRAS

PA041615 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1745 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Press conference held by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica in Tegucigalpa on 3 January "at the end of a National Security Council meeting;" questioners not identified -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Paz Barnica] Today's National Security Council meeting is the first to be held in 1985. Since this is a very important year for the country's interests, it is natural that this National Security Council meeting should have special significance. I will report on the subjects that were discussed. We thoroughly discussed Honduras' national and international situation and the plans for 1985. Two priority topics were discussed with regard to 1985, which is a political year. Therefore, participatory and pluralistic democracy must be strengthened through free elections in November 1985 as planned and as President Roberto Suazo Cordova has reaffirmed. This can also be achieved with the strict and faithful observance of the constitutional principles, including, among other things, alternation in the exercise of public power, the apolitical nature of the Armed Forces, and universal suffrage so as to achieve a civic transition that will maintain democratic institutions. It was maintained that this is very important because the extremes, both of the right and of the left, seem to have united to raise demagogic banners.

Another priority subject is border delimitation. In 1985, the border delimitation will be the foremost consideration. The deadline for direct negotiations expire in accordance with the 1980 general peace treaty.

The constitutional government will intensify its actions to safeguard national sovereignty and to seek a peaceful solution through direct negotiations or through the International Court of Justice, depending on the situation between the two countries. We also discussed such topics as the negotiations with the United States. It was stated that they are going well. The commissions to discuss security and economic cooperation will meet again soon. The Honduran position does not advocate a permanent military presence, nor have we discussed the subject of permanent military bases. What is understood as permanent must be clarified. This has not even been discussed.

We also analyzed the Armed Forces' report on missing persons. As a result of the March 1984 events, the Armed Forces promised to continue investigations on such a delicate and sensitive topic to the Honduran people. In this sense, they established a commission to continue the investigations and relevant inquiries. They drew up a report and said that this report would be presented to President Suazo Cordova at the end of 1984. They did so and the communique issued by the Armed Forces on this subject is self-explanatory. It was stated in the Security Council meeting that the communique and the report are clear and that they clearly open the way for those interested or those who believe they are affected to present their proof on missing persons or violations of human rights to the proper courts. If any guilt is verified, the Armed Forces are firmly determined to cooperate so that those responsible can be punished. The report also extends the work of the commission by 3 months.

After discussing these essential aspects and others, such as the issue of refugees and voluntary repatriation, it was clearly confirmed that there is unity between the civilian government and the Armed Forces regarding objectives and ideals to strengthen democracy, full support for the constitutional government of President Suazo Cordova, and the consolidation of an institutional process based on unity, harmony, progress, and democracy. The future must be viewed with optimism and hope.

[Question] A radio station said a few moments ago that you had resigned. What is your comment?

[Paz Barnica] No. Someone said that to me on 28 December, Innocents Day [similar to April Fool's Day] when I arrived back in the country after being absent for more than a month. I am beginning 1985 with faith and with determination to continue to cooperate as much as possible with President Suazo Cordova's government with dedication and in the defense of Honduras' interests. That report is just speculation and does not correspond to reality.

[Question] Was there mention in the Security Council meeting of the origin of the leftists and rightist groups that were allegedly involved in the disappearance of people?

[Paz Barnica] No. The report and the communique were analyzed. It was established that they open the way for those interested to go to the courts and present proof so that those responsible can be tried and punished in accordance with the law. The communique, as it was stated in the Security Council, is clear stating that there was some participation by foreigners in these actions. This must be debated in the courts within the framework of the judicial branch.

[Question] The fact is that no aware Honduran believes the Armed Forces' report. How could those affected present proof if the proof should have been presented by the commission carrying out the investigations? The public does not know the details of the report that was presented to the president. Was this report discussed by the Security Council?

[Paz Barnica] Of course. The report is summarized in the communique issued by the Honduran Armed Forces. An interested or affected person can accuse specific people who may have participated in the violation of human rights or the disappearance of people. Names have even been mentioned. They can take them to court and present proof so that those responsible will be punished. I fully agree that those responsible should be punished severely. Investigations have been undertaken, the work of the commission has been extended 3 months, and the Honduran Armed Forces are willing to continue to help clear up this situation.

[Question] But if the Armed Forces, which should supposedly investigate those responsible, cannot find out who is responsible, how can the judicial branch do so?

[Paz Barnica] The Armed Forces' communique establishes the essential aspects of the report. I understand that if some family or person is interested or affected by a violation of human rights or the disappearance of persons -- actions that should have never occurred and that have not taken place since 31 March 1984 -- they can go to the courts. I understand that some actions have already been brought before the courts. There are human rights organizations that can go to the courts so that specific people can be called to testify and so that there will be legal proceedings in accordance with the law.

[Question] What can the judicial branch do when you have pointed out the weakness of that branch?

[Paz Barnica] I think the judicial branch has its shortcomings and that it should be improved to benefit the country. This situation exists in many countries, even in very developed countries. The important thing is that we strengthen the democratic conscience, that we learn from the past, correct errors, and build a better Honduras based on democracy and not demagoguery, based on the defense of the Constitution and not false constitutionalist champions who are the ones who have violated the Constitution in this country and who have lent themselves for the worst abuses and repression in Honduras.

[Question] It has been said that currently some persons held responsible by the relatives of missing people occupy positions in the Army, such as [words indistinct] and others.

[Paz Barnica] Well, should these persons be found to be involved in the case of missing people, let the interested parties file suits in the courts and let these people be summoned to appear before proper authorities. As I have told you, the Armed Forces have said that they are willing to cooperate fully to resolve situations like this. During the national security meeting, and this appears in the report of this meeting, it was agreed to include in the report full provision for those interested in this problem of missing people to proceed legally. Now let's discuss some other topic.

[Question] Another person was reported missing last December and this has occurred during this new term of the Armed Forces. During the month of October, several people were also reported missing and it turned out they were in the hands of the Army and the state security organizations. How is this possible, even now?

[Paz Barnica] I have no knowledge of disappearances in the past few months. I have read about some of these cases in the newspapers, but I don't think the Armed Forces officers act like that. Let me illustrate this with an example. When I returned from Brazil in November and then visited the United States for health reasons, I was told that a Foreign Secretariat driver had been abducted and that this man had to be helped because he was desperate.

Then, I traveled to Houston and later to Spain where, in addition to taking a rest, I carried out an official mission. When I returned, I inquired about this poor man's fate and the mother of a girl who had also been abducted. In her case, I was told she ran away with a lover and is still around.

[Question] Do you think that something similar has happened to all those missing?

[Paz Barnica] I don't think so. I am speaking about a recent case. I don't think so at all. I think outrages were committed here and those responsible must be punished. My stance on this is very clear. I am familiar with the topic, can handle it, and am a man of conviction, not an opportunist.

[Question] Why do you make this comparison?

[Paz Barnica] Because of the latest case that you mentioned.

[Question] Are you referring to military officers [words indistinct]?

[Paz Barnica] I am referring to the highest leadership. If this man Alexander Hernandez has committed any crime, let him be summoned to court and tried. I don't even know him, but I still believe that any person who violates human rights should be severely punished. The violation of the human rights due to destabilizing actions is just as serious as the violations of human rights by state terrorism. Fortunately, a situation like that in other countries does not occur in Honduras. I was involved directly in the Argentine situation because I was an OAS official in Washington. I was able to see the terrible consequences of genocide. General Walter Lopez is an honest military man and a patriotic officer. Colonel Efrain Gonzalez Munoz is an able, honest man. He is chief of the joint staff. Colonels Guillermo Suman, Regalado Hernandez, Francisco Cepeda, and Martinez Davila have a quite positive stance.

[Question] Colonel [name indistinct] was proposed as military attache at the [words indistinct] embassy [words indistinct].

[Paz Barnica] That is right. I was absent when that happened. He was dismissed a few weeks later.

[Question] Regarding the political aspect, the Security Council apparently discussed today full guarantees for the electoral process.

[Paz Barnica] Of course.

[Question] The council also mentioned the case of the rightist and leftist groups that are apparently bent on destabilizing the country. What groups are these?

[Paz Barnica] During the council meeting, it was clearly reiterated that free, honest elections would be guaranteed, not only becasue the Constitution so states, but because the Honduran people deserve this. Political organizations should settle their own differences without any outside interference. President Suazo Cordova and the Armed Forces reasserted this. The Armed Forces have reiterated their support for the constitutional government and their willingness to strengthen democracy in our country. There was, however, a pronouncement on 31 December in which leftists and rightists seem to have been mixed together. The document mentions the defense of constitutionality. This is unnecessary because constitutionality is not endangered.

No one violates the constitutional regime regarding the political transition to maintain republican institutions in our nation. Regarding this topic of the Broad Opposition Front, Ubodoro Arriaga, secretary of state for the Presidency, will give you more specific information.

[Question] Who do you describe as leftist in this opposition front? Do they belong to the Liberal Party?

[Paz Barnica] I have already told you that... [rephrases] Well, look, I belong to the Liberal Party and believe, as I said yesterday, liberalism is an expression of social democracy. For this reason, I believe political organizations should be strengthened because they are the foundations for the democratic regime to [words indistinct].

I also think that minorities should consider the value of majorities and that the latter should be tolerant and respect the will of minorities. Regarding this topic that you have mentioned in your question, Secretary of State for the Presidency Arriaga will meet with you journalists in the next few hours and discuss the Broad Front. This is why I don't want to advance any opinion on a topic that will be discussed by Secretary Arriaga. I spoke to you yesterday sufficiently. I was wished a happy New Year and success in my activities.

[Question] One last question, Doctor. You have said you advocate neoliberalism. Is this doctrine the famous democratic left of Latin America?

[Paz Barnica] No, I think neoliberalism is an updating of the classic liberalism that used to leave all to private initiative. I think the state should take part in the solution of social and economic problems. For this reason, democracy should be basically social. This is to say, neoliberalism as an expression of social democracy in America and Europe is a better solution than other alternatives such as totalitarianism of the extreme left and fascism, that is, totalitarianism of the extreme right.

[Question] Is this, then, social democracy?

[Paz Barnica] I think social democracy is a political trend with a great future throughout the world. I belong to the Liberal Party, which identifies with social democracy rather than with totalitarian movements. Our Liberal Party currently participates in the Liberal International as an observer. Social democracy has made itself felt in Honduras through foundations in this government, particularly in cooperation agreements with the three German foundations representing the three international trends: the Friedrich Ebert of social democracy; the Friedrich Nauman, FRG's liberals, and the Konrad Adenauer of the Christian democracy.

[Question] When will our government's neutrality end regarding the conflict in Nicaragua, considering that in Tegucigalpa a counterrevolutionary leader announced yesterday that they would murder 22 or 23 Sandinist prisoners? How can these people use [words indistinct] to hold press conferences?

[Paz Barnica] I have no information about what you mention.

[Question] It was published in a newspaper.

[Paz Barnica] Well, I rose very early to tend to other matters. I would have to read this information, which is interesting. I think these people should be kicked out of Honduras immediately.

[Question] Do you mean Steadman Fagoth, who announced this?

[Paz Barnica] As far as I understand, he also was a Somozist. [end recording]

ARRIAGA DISCUSSES OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT

PA060306 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1825 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Press conference held by Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta, secretary of state for the Presidency; date, place not given -- live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] Newsman Milton Mateo of Voz de Honduras has a question for the secretary.

[Mateo] Sir, if the government does not take this opposition front seriously, as you indicated, why then has the government been obliged at this time to confront it publicly?

[Arriaga] We are taking it seriously. All these things must be taken seriously, because as the great propagandists used to say regarding the theory of propaganda, if a lie is repeated often enough, the time will come when people believe it. At times, the larger the lie, the more likely it is that it will be believed by people if it is allowed to develop. Therefore, it seems to me that in any of these cases, it is the government's right and duty to face up to the matter and explain to the people the origin of the things that they are hearing, why there has been a proclamation by the university, for example; why there has been a statement by a sector such as the Broad Front; what political interests are behind all this.

The facts are as follows: The Broad Opposition Front [Frente Amplio de Oposicion] includes certain political sectors that already sense that they will be defeated in November. Some political parties will not win the elections on 29 April [as heard] because they failed to work hard to list and register their supporters in the National Registry. They have been placed in a very difficult situation, even within their own parties. Realizing, with political interest, that they may have to answer to their supporters, who may begin to demand explanations of their culpability, those leaders may feel that it would be better to channel the present situation in a direction that could lead to coup d'etat, or to another situation that will relieve them of blame for having failed to be sufficiently active within their parties in order to win the free elections that will be held in November of this year.

[Moderator] The next question will be asked by Regina Osorio of "This Very Day," followed by Douglas Membreno of Radio America and then Roger Arthur of Voz de Honduras.

[Osorio] We would like to know whether the Honduran Government has definitely decided to expel the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries from this country, in view of the statement made yesterday by the foreign secretary to the effect that the contras should be kicked out of the country. We would like to know what will happen to the approximately 12,000 armed counterrevolutionaries if the United States suspends its military aid to them.

[Arriaga] Perhaps the foreign secretary's comment might seem harsh if one does not consider why he said what he did. He was asked about a comment by one of the leaders of a Nicaraguan opposition front who said that he was not happy with, or that he did not agree with, the Honduran position regarding support for the contras. The fact is that we have a law, called the Population Law, which forbids foreigners from participating in politics. The law also outlines the penalty imposed on a person who exercises a right not granted him, a stranger interfering in the country's internal political matters. The law says that such a foreigner should be immediately expelled from the country. Therefore, the foreign secretary's comment was appropriate in a situation in which a person was abusing the rights granted him as an immigrant, a resident of the country, and in which a person was being abusive of and violating Honduran internal laws. From this viewpoint, the foreign secretary was quite correct.

[Moderator] Next will be Roger Arthur of Voz de Honduras, followed by David Romero of Radio Tegucigalpa, and then Mario Calix of the newspaper EL HERALDO.

[Arthur] Thank you. With regard to the Broad Opposition Front, I would like to ask you whether, in response to certain circumstances that have originated in this government, such as the training of Salvadorans in the national territory, constant military exercises which were ironically approved by the Congress after General Alvarez Martinez had already made the arrangements in Wasnington, support for the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, specifically in the Alvarez Martinez era, dismissals of non-liberal employees without severance pay, scandals, intervention in teacher and labor union organizations and even in sporting organizations, you do not believe that certain sectors are dutybound to complain and to adopt positions like those taken by that Broad Opposition Front? What do you think?

[Arriaga] We accept criticism. Everyone should accept criticism, as long as we understand what criticism is. Criticism is not just pointing out the negative side of an event or a person. Criticism -- and this is the root of the word criteria -- is analyzing the negative aspect of an event or a circumstance, of a person or a society. However, at the same time, it involves analyzing the positive aspects. Whenever we discuss the events that have occurred here, perhaps because of illegal actions and perhaps by error, criticism has been accepted and no one has been persecuted for criticizing. There is freedom to criticize. There is freedom of the press and many errors have been corrected. Even if the advances this country is making within the democratic system are slight, there should be recognition of the system's virtues and we should all return to our duty of strengthening, consolidating, and defending the democratic system while expressing the appropriate criticism of its operations.

[Moderator] David Romero of Radio Tegucigalpa follows.

[Romero] To remain on the topic of the Broad Opposition Front, we believe that every phenomenon has a cause and an effect. We do not believe that the Broad Opposition Front was founded just on the whim of four or five leaders. There must be a reason. What do you think are the real causes for the emergence of a political movement of this kind in a country that, as you pointed out, has only recently begun a democratic life?

[Arriaga] It is a good question and one that I also asked myself: Why is there an extreme opposition front that makes a series of statements giving the impression that it is faced with a dictatorship?

There is an explanation. Some of the party representatives involved there would seem to be fully convinced that they are not going to win the November elections, and that the path for them to take is not the path of elections. The path of elections is for those who are sustaining the democratic system. Why does it seem that this Broad Opposition Front wants to direct the situation toward something other than a lasting, continued democratic system? Why does this front exist with great energy now, when it did not exist to confront the dictatorial or de facto regimes that have existed in this country? They find it preferable to change to a different system, to weaken and distort and destabilize this system, so that events will take a different course.

Some of the persons who signed this manifesto have been successful in the past in waging such softening-up campaigns, campaigns to convince the Army to change the state of affairs, and they have managed to bring about coups against completely democratic regimes that had been the product of popular elections. This has brought them results and that is how those people have come to power, instead of through the path of elections.

[Moderator] Mario Calix of the newspaper EL HERALDO.

[Calix] Do you believe that the front has become involved in illegal or unconstitutional actions? If this is so, why does the Law of Political Movements authorize the formation of coalitions? My second question is: What was discussed at an alleged meeting with a high-ranking U.S. official that you, the foreign secretary, the president of the Republic, and a high-ranking Armed Forces official attended?

[Arriaga] I do not understand the first question. I would like you to repeat it, but before you do, I will say that there was indeed a meeting of high-ranking officials with their U.S. Covernment counterparts, to discuss strictly military matters that are of current interest, such as the military operations that are currently under way and those that were held last year, including in December of last year: the 'Big Pine I, II and III" exercises. Other maneuvers are under way. One is called "Scorpion", and there are others that are apparently quite natural and quite in keeping with the relations that exist as a result of the military assistance agreements. This is a matter of training, of technical military assistance. Our military institution receives military assistance from abroad, just as we receive assistance in other areas of national life.

[Moderator] Mario Calix, please repeat your first question.

[Calix] The question is whether the recently formed Broad Opposition Front has commited any illegal or unconstitutional action so far. After all, this kind of political coalition or the formation of groups or fronts is authorized by the electoral law and Law of Political Organizations.

[Arriaga] The Constitution does not forbid that kind of organization or that kind of position. We are not discussing whether or not they have committed a crime. We are discussing a political pronouncement, a critical pronouncement, a statement that questions the democratic exercise of authority by Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova's government. What we are discussing and responding to are the possible motivations that led to this pronouncement. In no way are they acting outside of the Constitution.

[Moderator] Danilo Antunez has another question.

[Antunez] Many counterrevolutionary leaders who are fighting in Nicaragua against the communist regime are here in Honduras and have made statements. Steadman Fagoth said that he would execute 25 Sandinist prisoners. The foreign secretary has opposed the use of our territory to attack a government with which we have diplomatic relations. In this regard, will the Law of Political Population and Immigration be applied to those people?

[Arriaga] Exactly. The foreign secretary said so clearly, even using the terms that have caused something of an uproar. Fagoth's statement that he will execute people here...[sentence incomplete] This is a country that must be respected. Perhaps when they win there and attain power in Nicaragua they will be able to do this and they will have all rights and will be in a position to do this, but they are in Honduras and that is offensive to Honduran sovereignty and Honduran law. That is why the comment made by the foreign secretary is proper. The Population Law already establishes a penalty for abuses of this kind by foreigners.

[Moderator] We have come to the end of this press conference. We thank you for coming from Voz de Honduras, Radio Tegucigalpa, Radio America, Radio Honduras and the various other media.

MISURA'S STEADMAN FAGOTH ARRESTED, TO BE DEPORTED

Fagoth Comments

PA042054 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [Misura] leader Steadman Fagoth has said in a press conference in Tegucigalpa that the Honduran Government has a right to expel rebels from the country. The Honduran Government is fully authorized to reject or accept any foreigner, Fagoth said. However, he said that while the democratic forces are limited, the communists have the entire world in which to maneuver.

Fagoth, who held a press conference in Tegucigalpa to denounce international communism's distortion of the Nicaraguan problem, said he is in Honduras semi-clandestinely. The rebel commander said that if the rebels are expelled from Honduras they would have to seek another country and mentioned Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and the United States as likely destinations. The only thing that I do not want is for Honduras to deport me to Nicaragua, Fagoth said, adding that the Nicaraguan people have no choice but to continue struggling against communism.

Paz Barnica Remarks

PA051842 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 5 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica has confirmed that state security authorities arrested anti-Sandinist Indian leader Steadman Fagoth Muller. "Fagoth was arrested last night by the Investigations (secret) Police and he is under arrest pending an evaluation of his legal status in Honduras because he has violated the laws governing the presence of foreigners in the country," Paz Barnica said.

Paz Barnica declined to comment on whether Fagoth Muller will be deported or to what country he might be sent if deportation is decided upon.

Deportation to U.S.

PA062105 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1946 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- It was learned here today that the Honduran Government will deport the anti-Sandinist Indian leader Steadman Fagoth Muller to Miami. According to a government spokesman, who asked not to be identified, "the deportation to the United States, via Miami, will take place next week, maybe even tomorrow." The same source added: "It seems that Fagoth has dual nationality, U.S. and Nicaraguan, because the Americans granted several Nicaraguan rebel leaders a series of immigration privileges."

The source added that he was not aware of an official request for the extradition of Fagoth Muller that, according to wire service reports detelined Managua, was made yesterday by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to his Honduran counterpart, Edgardo Paz Barnica. A spokesman for the Honduran Foreign Secretariat said that the request was most probably made through the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa "but the bureaucratic paperwork will probably not be completed before noon on Monday since all official activities in Honduras are suspended on Friday afternoon."

Fagoth Muller has been in the hands of the Honduran police since Friday night and it has been impossible to learn his exact situation. Fagoth is the 34-year-old leader of the Misura, an indigenous organization that has 18,000 refugees in Honduras and for the past 3 years has had 3,000 fighters on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast. The Nicaraguan "conterrevolutionaries" act under the protection of the United States and even though the Honduran Government has always officially denied their presence in the country, they have, up to now, been allowed to move freely and with certain privileges.

According to the same official spokesman approached by ACAN-EFE, all the Nicaraguan political and military rebel leaders who visit or remain in Honduras for one reason or another "will have to strictly abide by the country's laws and refrain from carrying out activities or making statements against neighboring governments." The spokesman added that "a rebel, whatever his nationality, who makes statements to the press that may affect Honduran neutrality will be deported." Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN; Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE; Misura; and other groups fighting against the Nicaraguan Government have offices in Honduras.

Fagoth Wants To Go to Guatemala

PA070304 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0120 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Jan (REUTER) -- Nicaraguan rebel leader Steadman Fagoth, who was arrested by the Honduran authorities, has asked to be sent to Guatemala, military sources reported tonight. The same sources aid that they are waiting for the government to make a decision tomorrow regarding the situation of Fagoth, leader of the Misura, an Indian rebel organization. Fagoth was arrested last Thursday for allegedly meddling in Honduran internal affairs. The Nicaraguan leftist government has asked for Fagoth's extradition.

The same sources said that the military authorities met during the weekend to discuss the problem of the 4,000 Nicaraguan rebels who have their base of operations in Honduras. The government wants them to leave. The Honduran authorities aid that they could be asked to move to Nicaragua. However, diplomatic sources have said it is unlikely that any definite measure will be taken before February, when the U.S. Congress will decide if it will continue giving aid to the revels.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT ASKS HONDURAS TO EXTRADITE FAGOTH

PA061543 Paris AFP in Spanish 1455 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, 6 Jan (AFP) -- Official sources have announced here that the Nicaraguan Government has asked Honduras to extradite Steadman Fagoth, the Miskito rebel leader arrested Saturday by the Honduran police. Today, the Managua Foreign Ministry issued a communique noting that Fagoth was "accused and tried in Managua on common criminal charges." Fagoth is the commander of the Miskito, Sumus, and Ramas group, one of the two Miskito Indian organizations that have been up in arms against the Sandinist government for the past 3 years. Fagoth was arrested after Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica strongly criticized Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups operating in Honduras. Paz Barnica said that the anti-Sandinist rebels in his country must be "kicked out." According to reports here, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) has more than 10,000 men in camps in Honduras. The FDN is the main armed Nicaraguan rebels organization and it is led by former Somozist officers. Yesterday, Honduran authorities said that Fagoth was arrested because he "violated immigration laws" when he held a press conference in Tegucigalpa and announced that he would execute several Sandinist prisoners. Today, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry formally asked Honduras to hold Fagoth under arrest "until extradition procedures are completed."

BROOKLYN RIVERA WOUNDED IN EPS BOMBING

PA041942 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The report that we broadcast yesterday afternoon about the wounding of Miskito, Sumu and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] Commander Brooklyn Rivera was confirmed at noon today. As we reported yesterday, Brooklyn Rivera was visiting several communities on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast to explain the dialogue he has been holding with the Sandinists in order to achieve peace between the Indians and the Sandinist government. At this time, Brooklyn Rivera is in one of the communities near Rio Grande. It was bombed by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and as a result, Brooklyn Rivera was wounded. The nature of the wounds he suffered is so far unknown, but we have been told that he is being evacuated from the combat zone to a closer location. We repeat: We confirm the report that we broadcast yesterday about the wounding of leader Brooklyn Rivera in Nicaragua's Atlantic region as he was explaining to the Indian communities his position regarding the Sandinist government.

Report Confirmed

PA060430 Paris AFP in Spanish 1907 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] San Jose, 5 Jan (AFP) -- Anti-Sandinists spokesmen confirmed in San Jose today that Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera was wounded, "but not seriously" somewhere in central Zelaya "between Puerto Cabezas and Bluefields," on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. We are trying to rescue him but a large Army offensive is under way in the area and the task is difficult, Samuel Mercado, member of Misurasata which is led by Rivera, explained without giving further details. According to reports spread in San Jose, Rivera was hit by shrapnel as he was talking with a group of Miskitos near Rio Grande, southern Zelaya region, about the talks that he has been holding with the Managua government for the past 2 months in an effort to find a solution to the war conflict.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUSES TO RELEASE ASYLUM SEEKER

PA042214 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] San Jose, 4 Jan -- ANN -- Differences between Costa Rica and Nicaragua have become more acute with the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry announcement that it will not turn over a Nicaraguan who had been inside the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua until 24 December. International treaties and agreements on political asylum, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry note explains, do not protect people who violate their country's laws. The Foreign Ministry reiterated that Manuel Urbina Lara left the Costa Rican Embassy on his own and was not forced or tricked into leaving.

Costa Rican Ambassador to Managua Jesus Fernandez was summoned for consultations with President Luis Alberto Monge and Foreign Minister Gutierrez and returned to Nicaragua yesterday. There has been no report on what the Costa Rican Government has decided to do, but is is believed that its reaction will go beyond the protest note level. The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry warned on 27 December that if Nicaragua would not agree to return Urbina relations between the two countries would be seriously endangered.

Costa Rican Government sources have also said that their country could file suit at the OAS or call for the intervention of the Contadora Group, an organization composed of four Latin American countries -- Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela -- which is trying to find a peaceful solution to the Central America crisis.

Urbina Gives Up Asylum

PA050419 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2219 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Managua, 4 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The Voice of Nicaragua, official station of the Sandinist government, today reported that Manuel Urbina Lara has given up his right to political asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy and has pledged to join the Nicaraguan military service. The radio station said that Urbina himself confirmed this decision during a press conference held today. No foreign press agencies were invited to the press conference.

RADIO IMPACTO CORRESPONDENT TO BE PUT ON TRIAL

PA041957 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Communique issued by the Interior Ministry]

[Text] Salomon Calvo Arrieta was detained on 29 December. He has disseminated through Radio Impacto, which along with Radio 15 September and other stations are spokesmen for the counterrevolutionaries, reportage that distorts Nicaraguan reality, threatens the country's security, and is aimed at causing Nicaragua's relations with neighboring countries to deteriorate. Calvo keeps in touch with counterrevolutionary leaders who have assigned to him the role of provocateur and propagandist in following instructions in the CIA manual. Calvo is being interrogated and will be turned over to popular courts to be tried according to revolutionary law. The revolution will not allow any correspondents for counterrevolutionary radio stations or other news media in Nicaragua.

Managua, 3 January 1985

1985 MILITARY BUDGET INCREASES 26 PERCENT

PA042132 Paris AFP in Spanish 2113 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Havana, 3 Jan (AFP) -- Cuba's military expenditures will increase by 26 percent in 1985, Cuba's news media reported today.

GRANMA, the Cuban Communist Party's newspaper, published this year's budget of which 1,470,900,000 pesos ($1,765,080, 000), have been alloted to the military sector, which represents a 26 percent increase over last year's $1,402,320,000.

Meanwhile, last year's budget of $2,120,280,000 for culture and science went up to $2,2662,960,000 and the $877,440,000 budget for construction, housing maintenance and community services went down to $868,560,000 this year.

The total general budget for 1985 is $13,554,480,000 slightly higher than the 1984 budget budget of $13,499,520,000. Some $18,960,000 was left over from the 1984 budget.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH URUGUAYAN OFFICIAL

FL041323 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers and first secretary of the party's Central Committee, has met with Dr Roberto (Esiene), Uruguay's Colorado Party foreign relations secretary and deputy-elect to the new parliament.

During the meeting, the current international situation was discussed, focusing on the crucial economic and social situation Latin American countries are going through as well as other matters of mutual interest.

During his visit to our country, Dr (Esiene) also met with Jorge Lezcano, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, and toured several places of economic, social, and cultural interest.

FRENCH MINISTER BRINGS MESSAGE FROM MITTERRAND

PA070329 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 7 Jan 85

[Text] Havana, 6 Jan (EFE) -- Christian Nucci, French minister delegate to the foreign minister in charge of cooperation and development, has arrived in Cuba with a message from French President Francois Mitterrand for Fidel Castro and with the purpose of discussing the possibilities of French-Cuban cooperation in Africa.

The minister refused to divulge the contents of this "verbal" message before relaying it to the Cuban leader.

Nucci, who will head the opening of the scientific, technical and cultural mixed commission, said that his presence here is a "political gesture" toward the Cuban Government and a manifestation of the good relations that exist between the two countries.

The French minister stressed that France and Cuba seek "peace and stability on the African Continent," have interests in the continent, and, therefore, can jointly cooperate in development programs. He added that France is against keeping foreign troops in Africa and that he would explain the situation in Chad and his government's position regarding the Angolan problem to the Cuban authorities.

Cuba has soldiers stationed in Angola which, according to Western sources, are estimated at 25,000. However, according to the French minister, following the recent peace proposals made by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, "the beginning of a process of withdrawal is being observed."

Although Africa seems to be the main topic for discussion during Nucci's visit to Havana, the French and the Cubans will duscuss two specific subjects during the meetings of the mixed commission, which will begin tomorrow, Monday.

The first subject to be discussed is France's willingness to resotre a building in Havana's historic downtown district. In exchange, France will ask Cuba for permission to establish a French cultural center.

The second subject will be the possible economic contribution France could make to expand the Tropical Medicine Institute, even though at this point, the French offer and the Cuban aspirations differ substantially.

Christian Nucci is the first French Government official, at the ministerial level, to visit Cuba since August 1983 when former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, visited the island.

Nucci will return to Paris tomorrow, Monday, after meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

ITALIAN COMMUNIST LEADER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

Meets C.R. Rodriguez

FL051430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member, has met with Gian Carlo Pajetta, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party and of Italy. At the fraternal meeting, a broad exchange of opinions and information on problems of mutual interest was effected.

Meets Montane Oropesa

FL041330 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the Politburo and Secretariat, has met at Central Committee headquarters with Gian Carlo Pajetta, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Italian Communist Party.

PARTY DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR AFGHANISTAN

FL051400 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] A delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba, headed by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, has left for Afghanistan to participate in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

VIETNAM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN VISITS

FL050048 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] Chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly Nguyen Huu Tho has attended the inauguration of the children's art exhibition for peace. The exhibition shows the drawings which received prizes in a contest organized by the Vietnamese magazine VANGUARD PIONEERS, in which children from 15 countries participated.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL TO MEET IN HAVANA 7-11 JAN

FL041902 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Comrade Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples [MSP], has reported that, from 7 to 11 January, a conference against the arms race and in favor of peace and development will be held at Havana University sponsored by the World Peace Council and organized by the MSP.

The conference will work at four roundtables named: Chemical, biological, radiological, and conventional weapons; economic consequences of the present arms race of the United States and its allies; the peace program of the socialist community as opposed to the aggressive policy of the United States and NATO; and the use of mass and cultural media in war propaganda. Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council, will attend the conference, which will also be attended by more than 50 Cuban, Latin American, U.S., West European, socialist Asian, and African researchers.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MESSAGE TO UNESCO DIRECTOR

PA061318 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The People's Government National Assembly sent a message of sympathy and solidarity to UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahatar M'Bow on Thursday in response to the slander campaign the powerful imperialist interests are carrying out against this institution and its director general.

At the request of President Fidel Castro, the National Assembly decided during its seventh ordinary session in December to send the UNESCO director general a solidarity message on behalf of the Cuban people. The message expresses admiration for the firm, serene, worthy, and brave attitude assumed by Amadou Mahtar M'Bow in defense of the democratic principles on which UNESCO is based in the midst of a slander campaign and the economic pressures unleashed by the United States. We believe, the National Assembly's message states, that the just position maintained by Amadou Mahtar M'Bow as director of the UNESCO already has solid international support which will continue to increase. In its message to the director general of UNESCO, the National Assembly also approved a proposal to increase our contribution to this prestigious institution as an act of solidarity by the Cuban people. We are certain, the message continues, that the great efforts made by UNESCO on behalf of education, science, and culture, and to promote the peoples progress cannot be defeated by the slander campaign and economic pressure through which the U.S. Government is attempting to impose its ideas and interests on UNESCO's policies and work plans.

VOA, RADIO MARTI TRANSMITTER INSTALLATION DECRIED

FL042330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The United States will install a large radio transmitter complex in Puerto Rico to broadcast political propaganda to Latin America, the newspaper (CLARIDAD) has reported in San Juan.

The independent publication said the U.S. Government will expropriate a tract of land in Cabo Rojo, the western part of the island, where it will build a powerful antenna which will operate as a bridge for Voice of America. According to (CLARIDAD), the transmitter will be used by both Voice of America and Radio Marti, an anti-Cuban station believed to start broadcasting in coming months.

U.S. WRITERS, ARTISTS DELEGATION ARRIVES

FL050012 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] A delegation of writers and artists from the black movement in the United States has arrived in Cuba, invited by the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists [UNEAC]. During their stay in Cuba, the delegation will visit centers of cultural, historic, and general interest. This afternoon, the U.S. artists met at UNEAC offices with Luis Pavon Tamayo, director of the international relations directorate, where they discussed cultural matters in general.

ETHIOPIA MARKS 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

FL051720 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Text] At a ceremony held in Addis Ababa, Tesfaye Maru, member of the Central Committee of the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia, stressed Cuban solidarity with Ethiopia in contributing to the development of the Ethiopian people.

At the ceremony held to mark the 26th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution, Maru especially mentioned Cuban support of Ethiopia at a time when Ethiopian territorial integrity was threatened. He added that Cuban successes during the past 26 years not only fill our supporters with pride but also provoke the envy of our enemies.

Cuban Charge d'Affaires Carlos Alsugaray said the Cuban revolution gave a new sense of dignity to our people, eliminating unemployment and creating the bases for achieving the worthy condition of internationalist workers.

EXPORT OF SPARE PARTS TO CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

FL042350 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Transport workers from the national enterprise of production and workshops will give a quick response to Fidel's statements at the first forum on energy, when, for the first time in its history, this enterprise will export spare parts to capitalist countries.

The figure, although small -- this year [as heard] reached the $250,000 mark for six types of spare parts -- is only the beginning of the future plans, because the members, who are affiliated with the transportation union, propose to bring millions of pesos of foreign exchange into the country.

POLITBURO MEMBER VISITS INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS

FL041258 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes has visited industrial installations Guantanamo Province that made outstanding efforts in 1984 in following Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz' guidelines in efficiency, productivity, and conservation.

Risquet Valdes, accompanied by Raul Michel Vargas, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Guantanamo, visited the Proletarian Vanguard and Free Guantanamo machine shops, the salt enterprise, and the Manuel Tames Sugar Mill, corroborating the emulative spirit that exists in these installations.

MARIEL SHIPYARDS TO BUILD 1,000-TON VESSELS

PA060406 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] For the first time in Cuba, three 1,000-ton barges [patanas] will be built in Cuba this year. This represents a sizable saving of foreign exchange for the country when one takes into consideration that 700-ton vessel costs approximately $1 million on capitalist markets, Hector Hernandez, director of the shipyards of the fishing industry of Mariel municipality in Havana, has reported.

Another special vessel for ocean research will also be built at those shipyards.

RIO YARA HYDROELECTRIC PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

FL040240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Roberto Damian Alfonso, alternate Central Committee member and first party secretary of Granma Province, and Marcos Portal, minister of basic industry, today toured the site where the Rio Yara hydroelectric plant is under construction in Bartolome Mazo municipality.

This project, when completed, will save more than 4,000 tons of petroleum a year, and will produce 3,000 kw for national consumption.

Alfonso and Portal were also interested in the construction of the project, and a committee from the Ministry of Construction, also at the site conducting operational studies, explained to the two leaders that they required several types of equipment in order to finish the first stage and start the second.

CORRECTION TO CASTRO ANPP CLOSING SESSION SPEECH

The following corrections pertain to the item healdined "Castro Addresses Closing of ANPP Session," published in the 2 January Latin American DAILY REPORT;

Page Q 17, third paragraph, line 13 reads: ...will service the west... (changing "Occidente" to "the west")

Page Q 19, eighth paragraph, line 5 reads: ...oil refinery at Punta Gorda known as CAME I [CEMA I], and all other... (clarifying passage)

Page Q 21, second paragraph, line 5 reads: ...pediatrics hospitals in Las Tunas, Ciego [de Avila]... (clarifying province names)

Page Q 21, third paragrpah, line 14 reads: ...Santiago de Cuba, Las Tunas, Holguin... (clarifying province names)

CDB TO GET LOANS, TECHNICAL AID FROM IDB, U.S.

FL041349 Bridgetown CANA in English 2231 GMT 3 Jan 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 3, CANA -- The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is receiving 28.37 million dollars (U.S.) in the form of two loans and a non-reimbursable technical cooperation agreement from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a CDB release said today. The CDB Board of Directors, at a meeting here last month, authorised President Williams Demas to sign the three agreements with the Washington-based lending agency. Demas was also given the go-ahead to sign a non-reimbursable technical cooperation agreement for 564,990 dollars (Can) with the International Development Research Centre of Canada. The meeting approved 17.3 million dollars (U.S.) in financing for projects in Grenada, Cayman Islands, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia. The approvals brought total funds approved by the CDB to 515 million dollars (U.S.).

The release said the directors approved 132,000 dollars to finance missions of Caribbean manufacturers to the United States, Canada, and the European Community countries for promoting joint ventures and marketing arrangements in ornamental flowers, potted plants and foliage, sawn timber and wood-based products, among others. The funds are coming from a grant by the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) to promote employment in the region.

A loan of 20 million dollars, one of two from the IDB, will be onlent by the CDB to the region's More Developed Countires (MDC's) and for some sub-projects with high financial returns in the Less Developed Countries. The second loan amounting to five million dollars will be onlent to finance a multi-sectoral global credit sub-programme in Guyana and the LDC's. The non-reimbursable technical cooperation agreement for 3.37 million dollars with the IDB will be used for institutional strengthening and pre-investment activities to public and private sector investors in CDB borrowing member countries.

Of the 17 million dollars in financing approved, the Cayman Islands is getting 7 million dollars for a sewerage project; Grenada 1.4 million dollars for the construction of an industrial estate; St Kitts-Nevis 2.2 million dollars for an electricity-generating project utilising bagasse, and St Lucia 510,000 dollars to construct a cargo facility at the Hewanorra International Airport, 700,000 dollars for a student loan scheme, and 5.5 million dollars for a water supply project.

BAHAMAS

TOURIST SPENDING FOR FIRST HALF OF 1984 INCREASES

FL041401 Bridgetown CANA in English 1002 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Jan 4, CANA -- Visitors to the Bahamas spent 22.7 million dollars (U.S.) more during the first half of 1984 compared to the same period in 1983, according to figures by the Central Bank here. The bank said gross tourist expenditure during the first six months of the year was estimated at 207.7 million dollars.

It said that the additional 4.1 million dollars which accrued directly to government from tourism brought the total estimated gross tourist receipts to 211.8 million dollars or 22.6 million dollars higher than last year.

Bahamians spent an estimated 20.6 million dollars on travel, up 3.3 million dollars from the comparable period a year ago, the bank said.

DOMINICA

PARTIES UNITE TO RUN AGAINST FREEDOM PARTY

FL041615 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Opposition parties in Dominica have already begun preparations for elections in that country this year although they have not been scheduled. The parties have fielded an almost full slate of 20 candidates to run against the Freedom Party of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles. Elections for the 21-seat Parliament are due by October and there is no sign that Mrs Charles will call earlier elections.

The United Dominica Labor Party, the Labor Party of Dominica, and the Dominica Liberation Movement have agreed to have one opposition candidate oppose the ruling Freedom Party in each constituency. Each candidate is to be unswervingly opposed to the Freedom Party and the best possible of opposition candidates in his or her constituency. A spokesman said the candidates would meet to settle the leadership question by secret ballot.

GRENADA

NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER TO TAKE OFFICE

FL041620 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] A new police commissioner will take office in Grenada on Monday. (Russell Topping), a Grenada born former assistant commissioner in the Trinidad and Tobago police service, will replace Barbadian Merving Holder in the post. The prime minister's office, which announced the appointment yesterday, is expected to name other high-level police officials to put the department in a position to lead newly-trained policemen. A major recruitment drive has been going on to build the force up to around 550 with an emphasis on training that has been assisted by Britain and the U.S. A 100-men special services unit is being planned to eventually replace Caribbean peacekeeping forces on Grenada.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ACP SECRETARY CALLS FOR MORE EXPORTS TO EEC

FL041417 Bridgetown CANA in English 1005 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 4, CANA - The interim secretary general of the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), Trinidadian economist Edwin Carrington, has called for a major export drive in this country aimed at penetrating the European Community (EEC) market. Carrington is here to report to the government on the aftermath of the signing last month of the Third Lome Aid and Trade Convention between the 65 ACP countries and 10 EEC members. In an interview with the EXPRESS newspaper, Carrington said that it was no secret that Trinidad and Tobago was not making sufficiently good use of its quotas and opportunities under the Lome treaty. He said that this country needed to secure foothold in the largest markets in the world and start drafting plans for a U.S. market of 220 million and the EEC market of 260 million potential consumers. He recommended that a careful in-depth study of the European market be made at the same time as a similar survey of the U.S. potential. Such a market sensitive survey, he suggested, should identify the kinds of export products from this country most likely to be successful. We have preferential access, said Carrington, to the 2 largest markets in the world and we have to find our niche in these.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT ANTICIPATES AGREEMENT WITH IMF

FL041626 Bonaire Trans World Service in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] The president of the Dominican Republic said yesterday he anticipated an agreement would be reached between his nation and the IMF despite early negative reaction among Dominicans to such a pact. President Salvador Jorge Blanco said new austerity measures demanded by the IMF for the renegotiation of $465 million of the Dominican Republic's $2.5 billion foreign debt were necessary to lessen the crisis and help develop Dominican industry. Mr Jorge Blanco's comments came during a meeting with reporters in the Puerto Rican capital, where the president attended the Wednesday inauguration of Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon. The reported tentative agreement with the IMF has come under fire in the Caribbean nation of 6 million. The pact would increase tax and electricity rates and change the currency exchange system. Austerity measures demanded by the IMF last year raised the price of cooking oil and other staples in April, triggering 3 days of riots that left more than 50 dead.

GUYANA

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DENIES COUP RUMORS

FL071120 Bridgetown CANA in English 1529 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 6, CANA -- The Guyana Government today said mischief-makers started sweeping rumours of a coup here. It's the work of mischief-makers, said a government spokesman. The mischief-makers are out to paint a bad picture of Guyana and were being mischievous and nasty. The government-owned Guyana News Agency said: New York has been alive within the past 48 hours with news of a coup in Guyana. Government officials said several Guyanese living abroad had been telephoning Guyana about the reports.

URUGUAY

12 COMMUNISTS RELEASED; STUDENT LEADER ARRESTED

PY041440 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0242 GMT 4 Jan 85

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Jan (TELAM) -- The Uruguayan military government today arrested student leader Ofelia Fernandez upon her arrival in the country after living in exile for several years. Meanwhile, 12 members of the outlawed Communist Party were released on 2 January.

Fernandez, a member of the Uruguayan University Student Federation (FEUU), was detained by security agents shortly after leaving the plane that brought her. She was taken to the Montevideo police headquarters, and will be brought before a military court tomorrow.

Student Leader Released

PY051749 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The authorities have released university student leader Ofelia Fernandez. She was released after being questioned by the Military Court. This information was supplied to Radio El Espectador by Fernandez' relatives. She was arrested upon her return to the country after living in exile in Sweden for many years.